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Haliburton Man Wins Big ... Boat !

Sid Rolls A New Bayliner From Tim Horton's

"When I rolled it up all the way I said 'that ain't no doughnut!"

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

When most of us play the "Roll Up the Rim to Win" contest at Tim Hortons, we consider ourselves lucky when we win a coffee or donut. But after Sid Woolley of Haliburton purchased his coffee at the Minden location and rolled up the rim, he couldn't believe what he saw.

"I thought that maybe I had won a donut or something, but when I rolled it up all the way I said 'that ain't no donut!'" said the 73-year-old roofer. The 15 foot Bayliner is worth almost $15,000.

"I looked at it over and over again, then saw that it was a boat!" Woolley said that his jaw practically dropped down to the floor.

The winner wasn't the only one in shock either. Tim Horton's employees were floored when they found out what happened.

"We think that it's wonderful," said Assistant Manager Julie Townsend. "We were just completely thrilled for him. He was pretty excited and happy." Townsend said that it was the largest and most valuable prize claimed from their location.

Woolley, the owner of Sid's Roofing and Siding, says that his job will keep him extremely busy in the summer months, leaving little time for recreational activities. Though he was ecstatic about winning the almost $15,000 boat, he says that he plans on selling it.

"It's not a bad win," he said jokingly. "I'll sell it for a couple of thousand less than its original value if I have to." Though his prize is being given to him for free, there are a few costs attached with the boat that Woolley will have to cover.

"I have to pay the taxes, freight and a dealer preparation charge." He estimated that the total for these fees will probably run him about $2,000. Well worth the small price to pay for such a grand acquisition, he admits.

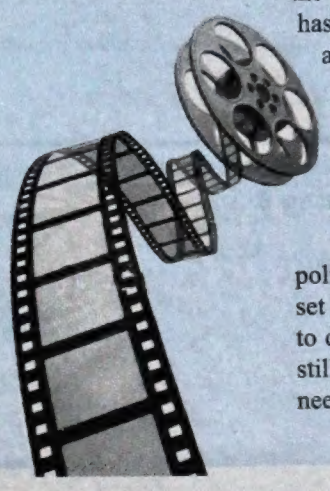
Woolley says that he isn't a caffeine addict, however, there's something about the Tim Hortons coffee that he finds irresistible.

"When I go to Minden, I make a point of going. I don't drink a lot of coffee, but there's something good about the way their coffee tastes." And a $15,000 prize will make it taste all the sweeter. ■

County Wide Film Policy

An Approval Process or Censorship?

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter



The Algonquin Highlands Council was recently presented with the County of Haliburton's Film Policy with Guidelines for review and approval. The policy was presented by Bob Smith, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Marketing for the County who will be seeking the support of all the Municipalities. And, while Council has given it the nod, acceptance of the policy didn't come without a lot of discussion and a bit of controversy. Part of their deliberations included a question that often creates a bit of a quandary when new approval processes are introduced at any level of government. Does the policy simply provide for Municipal and County approvals or, is it in fact just another form of censorship? At least, that was the concern raised by Councillor Carol Moffat during Council's question period immediately following Smith's presentation.

Smith told Council that increased activity and queries about whether there is an existing policy on filming prompted the Economic Development Committee to establish a draft set of guidelines that might best serve the entire County. Smith said that they had hoped to develop a one stop shop approach, but acknowledged that individual approvals would still be needed in each Municipality depending on the arrangements individual film crews need to make. Smith said that the policy would help to make residents in the area >>

Story cont'd... pg. 2 ...

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Can Hollywood Come to Haliburton County?

... from pg 1

>> aware of any filming activity that there might be, for example, what appeared to be armed men running around in camouflage or explosions going off in a field just down the road. According to Smith the policy is not intended for programming about current affairs or on site newscasts and there will be exceptions allowed for not for profit groups who are doing filming, as long as they are not using fire, explosives or incendiary devices or life or property threatening stunts. The policy statement recognizes that the film industry does generate economic benefits in the area and that film credits will help to establish the Haliburton Highlands as being both a 'shoot' and tourism destination location. The policy also requires a number of notifications, depending on the production crew's level of activity, including EMS, Police and Fire Departments, Roads Departments and any Municipality affected by the shoot activity. Proof of liability insurance will also be required as well as a security deposit to cover costs in the event of damages not covered by rental agreements with either the County or Municipality.

Councillor Moffat had a number of questions about the policy. But her first concern was directed at the policy's guidelines that suggested the County's approval might be withheld should the proposed production be considered distasteful to the general public. Moffat voiced her concern that she felt this to be dictatorial and a form of censorship. She described the policy as a "gaping yaw to drive a censorship truck through" setting a precedent for a small number of people (5 in the case of Algonquin Highlands Council) to make such a decision. Smith agreed to consider changing the language used in the policy, but other Council members agreed that some statement to this effect was necessary. CAO Lorne Mitchell reminded Council that they were elected to represent the Municipality and they have the legal right to make this type of decision based on their vision of what would be best for the Municipality overall. Smith then gave examples of individual filmmaking incidents where there had been fires and explosions in communities. In one case, Smith said that a film company had blown up a community bridge. He also suggested that often the film industry would rather apologize for problems after the fact rather than look for permission in advance.

Moffat commented that she didn't like controls being handed up to the County from the Municipality, adding that in this case the County would be establishing a policy for an industry that was not even aware of their existence. As an example, Smith suggested that the community's Fire Chief might consider an activity unsafe and not want to condone it. This would give Council the ability or the backing to turn down an application. Deputy Reeve Tom Gardner said that he would be glad to see the Fire Chief or Police have the opportunity to view a site depending on the circumstances. Gardner added that going through a process like this is not censorship. Offering another example, Gardner said Council would be glad to have the ability to turn down a white supremacist group wishing to hold a rally in their community hall. Moffat persisted with her concerns, saying that the policy seemed unfriendly. She asked who the County or Municipality is to approve what happens on private property. Smith suggested that it wasn't uncommon for film companies to be found filming on private property without approval and the policy ensures owners' approvals. Gardner also added that Council already have the right to say what happens on private property through development controls and he would rather be aware of the activity in advance rather than dealing with the aftermath of a problem. Smith agreed, saying that policy gave the County and the Municipality the ability to ensure film companies have adequate insurance and to make residents aware of activity thus allaying any concerns. Councillor Moffat reluctantly agreed with comments being made around the table.

Reeve Eleanor Harrison commented that policies are meant to be changed from time to time if it's determined that they aren't working. She added that she didn't think their doors would be knocked down by groups wishing to make films, but the policy does give them jurisdiction and some controls should they be deemed necessary. Council concluded their discussion with a resolution indicating their support of increased filming activity in the area and approval of a uniform set of guidelines for the County of Haliburton. ■

Film Policy Gets Mixed Reviews in Highlands East and Dysart

Dysart Council isn't exactly enamored with the Film Policy that is being proposed by the County Council. In fact, the Council thought further discussion was needed before they bought in to it.

On Monday morning County Economic Development Director Bob Smith made his second presentation, this time to Dysart Council and once again a number of concerns were raised. As in his presentation to Algonquin Highlands, Smith advised that, while the County had approved the policy, they are hoping to get input and approval from the Municipalities before proceeding with a by-law.

Councillor Derek Knowles suggested that the policy, if implemented, would be "just another level of bureaucracy. If someone wanted to make a film on our main street would we have the ability to give the project a yeah or nay without County approval?" Knowles asked. Smith responded that the County simply wants to be a conduit for all of the Municipalities to ensure that the appropriate approvals, security deposits and liability insurance are in place. He repeated that the County wants input from the Municipalities before giving the policy any teeth by incorporating the policy into a by-law.

Councillor Bill Davis was concerned about the generic nature of the policy, saying that it appeared to be set up for a single tier municipality. Davis said he agreed that a policy may be necessary, but he felt it should be a municipal policy rather than the County's. He agreed with Knowles that the policy was another unnecessary bureaucratic process. Davis also said he felt the policy was too restrictive and that while film making in the area is not a big industry at this time, it could become so. According to Davis the authority was not being put in the right hands as, in all likelihood, film makers would approach the Municipality first if they wanted to do filming there. Bob Smith disagreed, being of the opinion that applicants would approach the County first. He also let Council know that he fully understands the comments being made about enforcement of the policy and assured Council that the County is not trying to usurp anyone's authority.

Reeve Murray Fearrey said he believed in the ability to keep residents informed about any unusual activity. Councillor Steve Pogue suggested that a clause in the policy outlining films that would not be permitted or considered to be 'distasteful to the general public' was too broad. Councillor Andrea Roberts had no difficulties with the policy, saying she felt it was good promotion for the area. Councillor Knowles, however, was not prepared to adopt the policy without first seeing the actual by-law. Fearrey thanked Mr. Smith, and wrapped up the discussion by saying he felt more dialogue would be necessary before Council could give the County their support on the policy. ■

On the other hand.....

Once again, Smith presented the County's Film Policy and guidelines, this time to the Highlands East Council on Tuesday morning. Surprisingly, there was a completely different point of view to be heard in Highlands East. Council was very supportive of the policy. Comments made by individual Councillors indicated that they thought the policy was well prepared and encouraging to potential film makers, without being restrictive.

Stay tuned to hear how Minden Hills responds to the last of four presentations on the film policy. ■

HOLY WEEK
Schedule of Services
2008

Holy Thursday
March 20th at 7pm
Good Friday
March 21th at 3pm

Easter Sunday Mass
March 23rd at 11am

Celebration of Divine Mercy
Sunday, March 30th at 3pm
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1°c / -13°c	2°c / -2°c	0°c / -5°c	-4°c / -10°c	-4°c / -10°c	-1°c / -8°c	2°c / -4°c	
Flurries	Snow-rain Showers	A Few Flurries	Manly Sunny	Sunny	Light Snow	Light Snow.	LOW

Weather is susceptible to change.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

LOTTO 649
March 8, 2008
11 12 13 16 46 48
Bonus Number 28
Encore 1592097

SUPER 7
February 29, 2008
01 07 09 10 11 27 44
Bonus Number 25
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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On March 13, 1942, during World War II, the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps." The most famous dog to emerge from the World War I was Rin Tin Tin, an abandoned puppy of German war dogs found in France in 1918 and taken to the United States, where he made his film debut in the 1922 silent film "The Man from Hell's River."

On March 14, 1914, stock-car racer Lee Arnold Petty (father of Richard Petty) is born near Randleman, N.C. In 1959, he won the Daytona 500. Lee Petty never lost a race on account of being too kind to his competitors, even if those competitors were family.

On March 15, 1954, the Chords record "Sh-boom." The song's lighthearted melody and nonsensical lyrics kicked off a new era of "doo-wop" music. Doo-wop hits included "Earth Angel" by the Penguins and "In the Still of the Night" by the Five Satins.

On March 16, 1978, one of the world's worst supertanker disasters takes place when the Amoco Cadiz wrecks off the coast of Portsall, France. Although it later became a more commonplace feature of television news, this was the first time that images of oil-coated sea birds were seen by the world.

On March 17, 1901, paintings by the late Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh are shown in Paris. Eleven years earlier, van Gogh had committed suicide without any notion that his work was destined to win acclaim beyond his wildest dreams. In his lifetime, he had sold only one painting.

On March 18, 1852, in New York City, Henry Wells and William G. Fargo join with several other investors to launch their namesake business. In July 1852, Wells Fargo & Co. shipped its first loads of freight from the East Coast to mining camps scattered around northern California.

On March 19, 1916, eight Curtiss "Jenny" planes of the First Aero Squadron take off from Columbus, N.M., in the first combat air mission in U.S. history. They flew a support mission for the 7,000 U.S. troops who invaded Mexico to capture Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. ■

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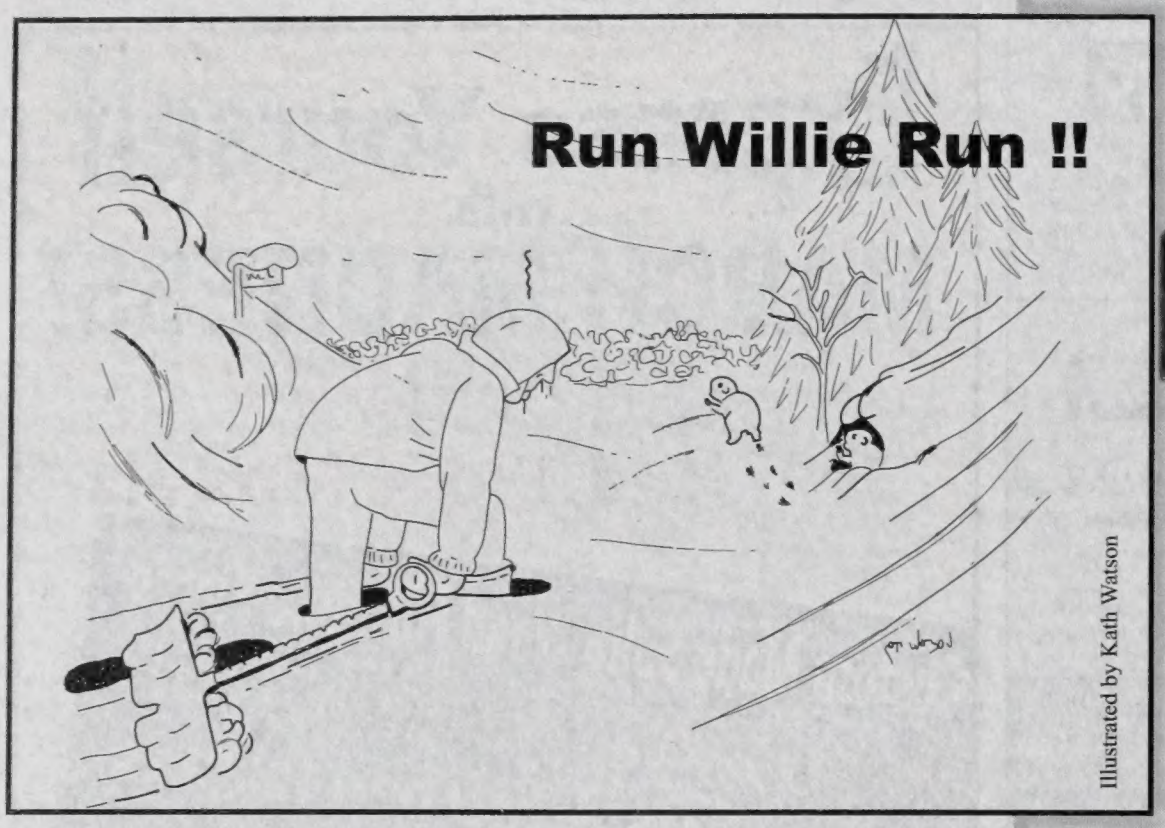

Illustrated by Kath Watson

Letter of the Week

Open Pit Mining a Threat to Air and Water

Until I read Mr. Young's letter, I was rather ambivalent about the mining issue because I really know nothing about mining. After reading Mr. Young's letter, I still know nothing more about mining but I do know that I am behind Mr. Young's position 100%.

I have serious concerns about the deforestation - we may be talking about scrub forest but its root systems still hold water and help prevent erosion and its leaves still help provide us with oxygen. There has been a Water Management Committee formed to deal, as I understand it, with the headwaters of the Trent Canal System - I believe this issue should be of most serious concern to that Committee.

The County of Haliburton has a Tree-cutting By-law which governs the cutting of trees on private property - doesn't the body, or bodies, which licence such projects as open pit mining, have a responsibility to the citizens, not only of Haliburton County but of the whole Province, to take into consideration the issues of erosion and the enhancement of air quality as provided by all things green, including scrublands, before handing out permission to destroy what is left where our mighty forests once stood?

Elva Bates ■

Thank you Stanhope Roads Department!

To the Stanhope Roads Department: While most of us are still in bed you leave your homes no matter whether it's snow or freezing rain and make your way to the garage to get your truck to make our roads safe to travel. Thank you all for a job well done.

John and Diane Dron, MacBrein Road, Stanhope. ■

... more letters see pg. 6...

Letters To The Editor Welcomed !!

We are now accepting Letters to the Editor - so let us know what you have to say. You can email them to letters@countyvoice.ca, or mail to Letters - Box 930 Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 - or drop them off at the office located in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

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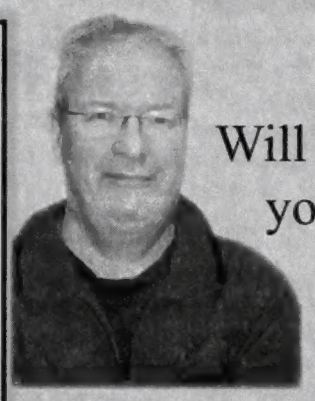


By Stephen Patrick

Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 94?

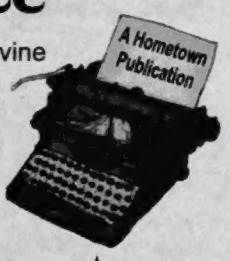
Haliburton County has the highest percentage of senior citizens in relation to its overall permanent population of any jurisdiction in Ontario: in addition, more than half of all adults are over 45 years old. The care and nurture of this ageing population as the years go on will be an enormous challenge for the County and the Province. Excessive wait times for admittance to the three long-term care facilities, Extendicare and Highland Wood in Haliburton and Hyland Crest in Minden, are already the norm. There are at least 25 people waiting to be admitted to Extendicare alone. The three facilities can care for just 152 residents at any one time.

Proposed assisted-living developments, when completed, will take some of the pressure off: there are without doubt some residents in long-term care who could be accommodated in these facilities. But at this point residents will have to pay their way in full -- no subsidies. The evidence is piling up that the system is spiralling out of control. Tales of resident abuse, right here in Ontario, are rampant – and the cumulated body of evidence, documented almost daily in the press, is just too great to be ignored. Abuse of staff is also an issue. Just yesterday the Toronto Star quoted a York University study that suggests some 43% of workers surveyed at 415 nursing homes in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba endured some form of violence on a daily basis. One worker commented that she had to "bathe, toilet and dress" 15 residents in one hour – four minutes for each. It's suggested that the violence against staff stems from the frustration of residents who are suffering from Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia and can't get attention, or be cared for.

The Liberal provincial government maintains that staffing levels have been increased since they took office in 2003. But little seems to change. Long-term care staff say that there still isn't the money available to ensure a high level of care: at Extendicare in Haliburton, 71 people look after 60 residents 24 hours a day. These institutions rely increasingly on volunteers, and family members, to help out on a daily basis. Jane Rosenberg, Director of Extendicare, says that Haliburton County has an exceptionally high number of volunteers whom she relies on for all kinds of help, in programming and in care. Living in a small community also helps: residents often have some kind of social or family connection with their caregivers, which is both reassuring to the resident and a deterrent to the more aberrant forms of neglect or abuse.

I spent a morning last week in Extendicare talking with residents, staff, and in particular my friend Charlie Tyler (see article on page 6B). The newly renovated facility seems a brighter, airier, more measured place than it was a decade ago when I spent considerable time there with my father. But the problems of staffing numbers and facilities clearly remain. Even with a staff generally acknowledged to be highly compassionate and caring, without some systemic change, the situation will clearly get worse, and quickly. And nowhere will that change be felt more than in Haliburton County.

The County Voice



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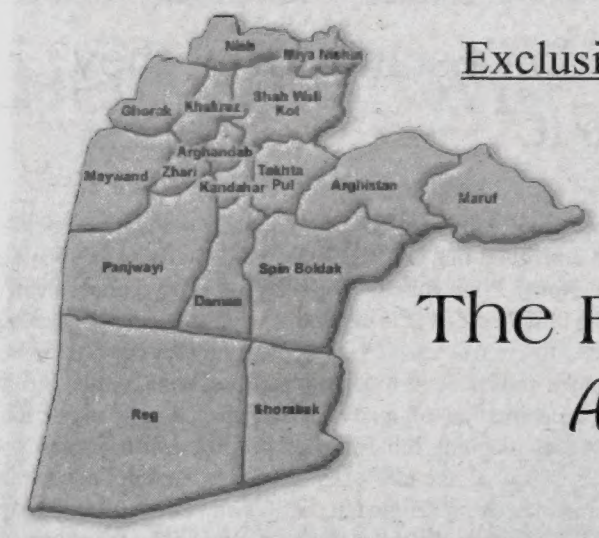

Exclusive to the County Voice - Part 7

"It's amazing where sand can get into"

The Road to Kandahar

A Soldier's Journal

by Captain David Beatty

For six weeks now Captain David Beatty has been taking our readers on a long journey, detailing the arduous preparations he and his fellow soldiers have made in advance of their impending deployment to Afghanistan. This week's column sees the troops return from their Texas training – in conditions remarkably like the Afghan desert – to a welcome few days off with their families here in Ontario. Within a few weeks, however, Captain Beatty and his troops will leave those families and, literally, fly off to war. He'll be detailing those final weeks and days of preparation in future columns, and then taking our readers over to Afghanistan. As always, we welcome you comments and response Captain Beatty's unique insights into the life of a Canadian soldier.

Validation and a Long Trip Home

With the validation of our individual battle skills pretty much complete, the Task Force moved to the next phase of collective training – Combat Team and Battle Group operations, all integrated in a joint operations context. In layman's terms, this is the mixing of tanks, infantry, artillery and fighter aircraft into a single manoeuvre element – much like a hockey coach on the first day of practice.

At first light the tanks from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) move forward to link up with elements of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Recognisance Squadron. Fighter aircraft from Canada's 437 Squadron in Baggotville Quebec fly high overhead, providing top cover for the manoeuvre elements. In the background the sound of rotor blades from the 427 Sqn Griffon helicopters echo along the valley floor as they move supplies and personnel forward and act as an "eye in the sky" for the troops on the ground.

It is now H Hour and the company groups from the 3rd Battalions, The Royal Canadian Regiment move forward in their LAV III vehicles. A few minutes later the sound of 155mm artillery fire from 2nd Regiment, The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery resounds across the desert floor, followed shortly by the screech of fighter aircraft moving in to the objective area and the sound of their 500lb bombs exploding. The objective, a suspected insurgent camp which has been located conveniently in the centre of the live fire range complex of Fort Bliss. As the combat teams move forward, their every move is being monitored by the exercise staff. GPS locations are being recorded and plotted on a digital battle management system (which now makes it very hard to say "hey it wasn't me" or "I was never over there"). The troops dismount and clear through the village, the sound of rifle and machinegun fire erupts suddenly and ends almost as quickly. Each house has been under observation for several days, the troops have been well briefed on what to expect and everyone knows what he/she is supposed to be doing. With 2 hours, the village is secure, and the sound of radios squawking the message of "cease fire, unload and move back to the Assembly Point" resounds across the desert floor. It is now time to look at what went right, and what went wrong on this attack.

As the training increases in tempo, the level of scrutiny by the Exercise Controllers increases as well. Individuals are debriefed at all levels, with the use of the digitized battle management system, a complete digital replay of the last attack can be played for all to see – who was were, when: who did what, when and to whom – all the answers clearly unfold and lessons learned are debriefed. Once commanders at all levels have had the chance to debrief their troops, the sound "mount up" echoes across the desert floor – time for another attack.

For two days, each company group went through a series of live fire stands. After a 24 hour break for maintenance and rest, the entire Task Force participated in a three day – force on force exercise. Designed to mimic actual operations currently underway in Afghanistan, it forced the Task Force to deal with refugees (actors who work at Fort Bliss), meetings with Key Leaders in villages, simulated IED strikes and working together as a highly complex Task Force.

All of the training done by Task Force 3-08 at Fort Bliss met its aim. Soldiers and equipment were forced to operate in a desert environment (it is amazing where sand can get into), worked together for the first time as a Task Force of just over 3000 personnel, conducted live fire training which ranged from individual weapons qualifications, to highly integrated live fire combat team attacks and lessons learned have been debriefed at all levels.

Now as we all head home, the reality of deployment has set in for many of us – the absence from families, the long work days, the sun and wind burn – all serve to remind us that in a few months, we will be in Afghanistan. Now it is home to try and wash the sand out of my equipment and to explain to my wife why I forgot her birthday. ■

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MORE
Letters to the Editor

"Act now, not later: if we don't stand for it, they can't do it."

There should be no debate about Uranium mining in the Highlands East. Uranium, like coal and oil is a non-renewable resource. We call these resources non-renewable because we use them globally at an alarming rate and the earth simply can not regenerate them to keep up with our demand. The scientific community has been looking for alternatives to these non-renewable resources for the better part of this century and has understood that a paradigm shift will need to occur if we are to sustain ourselves as a species on this planet. We know that Uranium is a non-renewable resource, some other things that we also know about Uranium; not all uranium isotopes are stable, uranium 235 atoms will fission, or split, readily and have been known to fission spontaneously creating a small nuclear reaction.

This event does occur in nature but in insignificant quantities due to the dispersion of the Uranium 235 among many other stable elements and particles. Mining isolates isotopes that is when the danger begins. The fact that the Highlands East has not suffered any past environmental incidents does not belay the fact that with decrease in employee wages on a national scale, poor working conditions, longer production hours, the constant need to get as much work out of people with as little pay as possible to swell the margins, is a constant mantra of our big business. This work ethic simply did not exist 50 years ago and is now a reality of our time. This causes carelessness, indifference and sloppy best practices by employees of many industries, and mining is no exception and is not immune to accidents. We also know that Nuclear Energy produces toxic radioactive spent fuel rods that need to be disposed of. So not only are we taking something out of the earth we can't replace; now we are stymied with the prospect of disposing of all this toxic waste.

We also know the radioactive spent fuel rods from Nuclear Facilities cause imminent death from radiation poisoning upon exposure and they are being buried under our landscapes in places neither you nor I know about, in underground caves, reservoirs, quarries, and in some places, just sitting in a transfer facility with no destination. We also know that these toxic radioactive spent rods stay lethal and deadly in our environment dissipating from tens of years to HALF A MILLION YEARS! Imagine, that's longer than our species will probably be on this planet. Now, the logical question should arise, the more we use nuclear energy, the more toxic waste created, the more toxic waste to be disposed of. What happens as these relatively safe places to store these toxic radioactive spent fuel rods become full, where do they go from there? Who determines where is safe disposal, and what is safe disposal? The same council that traditionally makes the wrong decisions for the people of Highlands East lately, the Mining Corporations from other Countries, our Federal Government?

We are all aware of Global Warming, we've seen the movies, we're buying smart cars, etc... so if the earth's atmosphere and global weather patterns are spinning out of control and are fluctuating with weather extremes unlike anything we have ever seen before, how can we be so sure that a geologic event won't occur that will rip open the toxins beneath our soil. Do you walk barefoot on the grass? Your grand kids may not be able too... Industrial atrocities have plagued our era. In 1948, Paul Muller was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of DDT, people bathed with it in World War II to control lice, it was put in drinking wells to control malaria in tropical areas. DDT is now a banned substance in Industrialized Countries, only after the near decimation of many animal species and mysterious illnesses plaguing thousands of people. I also remind you of Love Canal, the tens of thousands of Thalidomide babies born severely malformed in the 50's and 60's, and Cigarettes which has been the longest educational shift of our century. These Industrial atrocities were good for us, brought us jobs, gave small communities economy, at least thats what anyone fleecing their pockets told us and wanted us to believe - while we suffered and they got rich (Big Business and the Government). At what expense and how long will it take us to learn from our mistakes? The survivors of these atrocities are the same individuals that rallied and brought change to those industries only after enormous and unimaginable human suffering. Please, I implore you, before mining in the Highlands East becomes an Industrial atrocity - act now, not later. If we don't stand for it, they can't do it.

Tracey Lee Green
Highlands East Resident
Artist, Blacksmith
Environmental Resource Technologist. ■

"The land belongs to the people of the present and future."

I'd like to add to an on going subject on uranium mining. There is a lot of anger, a lot of tension out there without a doubt. We all have a lot at stake if this mining proceeds and destroys our country side. There is no question about that. I'm starting to feel we are running after the wrong people here. Bancroft Uranium, El Nino Ventures, Frontenac Ventures... these are all junior companies out to make a buck, at what ever cost. The problem is we have a government body that allows companies from anywhere around the globe to walk in to our country and tear it up under the name of PROFIT. None of this would be happening if our government hadn't opened our doors for business.

I myself don't believe our government ever had that right. This land belongs to the people of the present and future. It's entities like "Northern Mines and Development" that are responsible here. That entire establishment should have their keys taken away from them and a full review board investigate their moral practices. They are not here in support of the public on the contrary they entirely support mining corporations and their share holders. We pay the price. This activity has to end. We are the people...hence we are the government. Corporate control over democracy has no future here or anywhere for that matter. We do need to join together for our rights to have any strength at all. My partner and I have decided to take a different road and that is to start...by protecting our watershed. After all we need water first to survive. And that would make it difficult for uranium mining companies to survive here. They need water

...I believe that is why they are always mining near or on a water source. We are hoping to gather support from the all of the Trent Watershed recipients to join in on a class action against the government of Ontario to force a Moratorium on Uranium mining in Ontario. It is a class action that is already in progress in the Ottawa region. Those involved are: Ottawa Watershed Settlers, Mississippi Watershed Settlers, elders without borders. It's only strength in numbers that will carry us through. It's for the future of not only our area but for the province of Ontario. We are organizing now and will present it to the community shortly.

If anyone would like to volunteer or has any questions please e-mail us at earthdance@teksavvy.com

Darlene Buckingham.

Letters to the Editor

Can be emailed to: letters@countyvoice.ca or you can mail your letters to: County Voice Letters, Box 930, Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 or stop by the office in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton and drop your letter off in person.

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1:00 ~ Keynote Speaker
Dr. Orie L. Loucks
Ohio Eminent Scholar of Ecology and Professor
Emeritus, Miami University
"Can the History of Resource Use in Haliburton be any Guide to Competitive Future Development?"
Community Forums & Trade Show ~ 1:40-4:00pm
*Join a forum on "Gull River Restoration" @2:00pm
* View poster displays of this year's research and service projects by Trent University students as well as others presented by organizations within our community
* Network with other researchers and community developers
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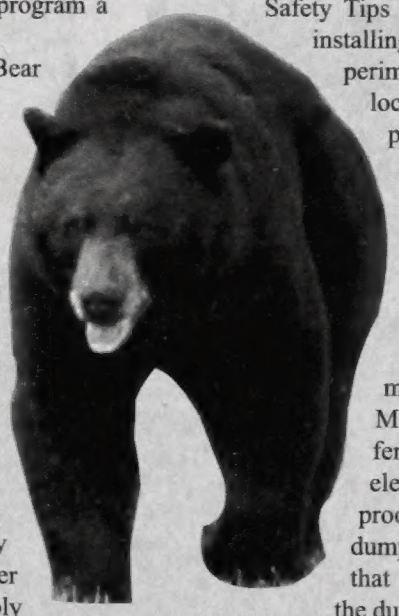
Being Bear Wise in Dysart

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

"How things can change in a week," said Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey. Last week Dysart Council discussed and decided against participating in a Bear Wise Program at their landfill sites. Since that time, their decision was apparently deemed a bit hasty, and the program was put on the agenda again for consideration this week. This time, with a bit more information Council decided to give the program a try.



Dysart hasn't participated in the Bear Wise Program so far, Council being of the opinion that it's a Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) issue. The Ministry, however, seems to be doing a good job of promoting the idea that communities also need to play a vital role in preventing black bears from becoming a problem. The Waste Management Committee has considered the problem and recommended that Council take a look at the program. A hazard assessment and action plan was developed for the Municipality and according to CAO Tammy McKelvey the Municipal Landfill Manager Mark Brohm is very supportive of giving the program a try with the purchase of bear proof bins. After further consideration, Council is set to apply for funding from MNR to get things rolling.

A hazard assessment is the first step in developing and implementing measures to reduce human and bear conflicts. Bear Density Maps show that our region is right in the middle of the highest population density of bears in the province. And, as most people who frequent them know, landfill sites are some of the highest risk areas. Without a solid strategy of physical barriers and what MNR calls 'negative association deterrents', bears will continue to use the landfill sites as fast food restaurants. Landfill sites are high use areas for the public as well, and according to MNR the bears associate this terrific source of food with human activity, a conditioning that can change the natural avoidance instinct that bears normally have to people. And that's when the potential danger really kicks into gear, particularly during the cottage season.

Achieving Bear Wise status can take a Municipality a number of years depending on funding availability. Some of the measures recommended in Dysart's action plan include developing public education and awareness programs, mailing Bear Wise fact sheets with tax bills, displaying Safety Tips at the Municipal office and landfill sites, installing large bear proof containers and electric perimeter fencing at the landfill sites with proper locking gates, replacing open containers at parks with bear proof containers and taking measures to keep people out of the landfills after hours. Funding is available through MNR to assist with these actions and the Municipality has the option of proceeding with any or all of the recommendations over time.

During their deliberations at both meetings, Council voiced concern that while MNR assists with the capital costs of installing fencing & containers, the cost of maintaining electric fencing may be prohibitive. If bear proof containers are installed, they must be dumped on a regular basis and the timing of that has to be coordinated carefully to ensure the dumped material is immediately covered with fill. According to CAO McKelvey, Brohm feels that using large bear proof containers will help to control air born litter. He also reports that less fill will be required when dumping the bins, rather than having to cover large areas of waste, as is presently the practice. Council finally agreed to give the program a try and passed a resolution authorizing an application for funding for two 40 cubic yard bear proof containers. The bins will be placed at the South Bay and West Bay landfill sites.

Council also voiced concern about where the bears will go if hindered from entering the landfill sites. That's where educating the general public comes into play; residents and summer visitors must also do their part to keep their homes and cottages safe. ■

Discussing Black Bears...

The Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists present Bart Hilhorst from the MNR on Wed. March 19th, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Haliburton Museum on Bayshore Rd. off of Hwy. 118. Bart will be doing a talk on Black Bears discussing prevention methods and what to do if you encounter a bear. He will give an overview of a year in the life of a black bear so that people can see why bears do what they do. Some reasons will be outlined as to why we have so many encounters with bears here in Haliburton County. Information will be presented on when the MNR might trap, relocate, or even tranquilize and tag particular bears.

Bart has lived in a rural setting in Haliburton County for 28 years and has had bears in his own backyard. He has worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources for 33 years with his primary work being Forestry related but he has dealt with bear/people problems for 12 years.

Come out for an interesting and enlightening presentation. Everyone is welcome and a question and answer period will be conducted. ■

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A Recycling Idea for Highlands East

This week a young couple approached Highlands East Council with a stellar recycling idea that should not only be successful, but very beneficial to the Municipality as well. Greg Filtsos and his wife Robin want to open a recycling/ sorting station in the community and Council is enthusiastic about the idea.

Filtsos, a resident of the area for 37 years, spoke of the increased focus on environmental issues at the national and provincial levels and proposed to put greater focus on recycling at the municipal level. Filtsos detailed the recyclable materials in the landfills and provided examples of what they could become in terms of recycled products. He said while the community's recycling stations are doing fine, they are often overflowing. The company would like to take all recyclable material including plastic, glass and aluminum, copper, cardboard, styrofoam, paper, steel and appliances from the land fill sites. Filtsos proposed scheduled pickups of material twice a week with greater frequency during peak activity. Should his proposal be accepted and the company move forward Filtsos felt it would benefit the community in a number of ways. First it would reduce unsightly overflow conditions immediately. He suggested that early & frequent removal of recyclables would deter individuals from rooting through the landfills therefore decreasing the chance of municipal liability should personal injuries occur. A recycling station would create local jobs for sorters, baler operators, drivers and administrators. The couple spoke of their hope for a joint venture with Council, saying that at this point they are open and flexible on how to proceed. They estimated being able to remove 90% of dumped materials creating much more space and therefore longevity at the landfills.

When asked if Highlands East alone could sustain the business, Filtsos said that it could, but over the long term he would like to approach Bancroft and Dysart with similar proposals. For now, Filtsos says they will leave tires and hazardous waste given liability issues, adding however that he planned to work on this aspect of the business with hopes of incorporating it in the future.

When asked if they had a site in mind for their business, Filtsos replied that they were open to suggestions. He said it was their intention to introduce the program and have Council point them in the right direction for the appropriate industrial or commercial property. Should Council give the project approval he would ask for a letter of support that he could take to the Ministry of Environment to obtain a Certificate of Approval. According to Filtsos there are some exemptions allowed by the Ministry when a business works directly with a municipality and removes material from municipal landfills. In response to questions about the size of building required for the business, Filtsos said they hoped to start with a 30' x 30' building, but added that the bigger, the better for more storage. He also suggested that ultimately he would like to see compacted goods loaded and hauled out of the community twice a week. Filtsos ended his presentation by stating that he and his wife looked forward to the chance to work jointly with the Municipality to create a cleaner environment for future generations.

The Council was very supportive as was Environment Manager Glen Covert. They suggested that the couple also approach the County Council's Waste Management Committee with their proposal, particularly if they were planning to expand the business into other communities in Haliburton County. A resolution was passed by Council approving in principal the proposal to establish a recycling business in Highlands East. ■

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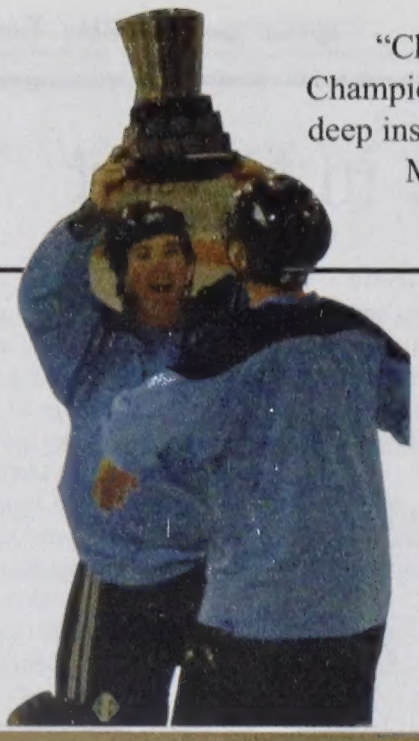
"Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them -- a desire, a dream, a vision."
Muhammad Ali, American Boxer

Thursday, March 13, 2008



Hockey House League Wraps Season

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Cup Final Decided in Shootout

It's a pursuit that requires riding the fine edge between kamikaze, full throttle, high-octane surges and a non-coastal reality of wife, kids and paycheck.

The hard knock here being a keen ability to judge when to let it go and when to haul back on the throttle, realizing that a concussion or other injury may crunch on one's ability to get to work for a couple of weeks.

That said, when all the marbles are on the line and when the Haliburton House League Cup is up for grabs, sometimes, the end collides head on with the means.

And that's exactly what happened last Saturday night at Dysart Arena as two very evenly matched squads went pedal to metal for 45 minutes in the A-Side final. The game between the Thrashers and the Stars set up bragging rights for the duration of the spring and summer and it featured fierce end-to-end rallies coupled with some very nice finishing touches.

The teams battled to a regulation 5-5 tie and the Cup decision then moved over to a shootout.

The Haliburton House League runs an interesting version of the one on one shootout format.

Each team places a goalie in net at opposing sides of the ice. Then shooters from both teams take off from center ice simultaneously.

The Thrashers won the shootout 2-0 and the game by a 6-5 margin. They took the cup for a twirl around Dysart et al Arena before finally dragging wearly bodies into the showers.

Six teams played an exhausting full day schedule which ran from 9 a.m. Saturday morning until 8 p.m. Saturday night.

Flames beat the predators 4-2 in the C-Side final while Oilers beat the Lightning 4-2 in the B-Side finale. ■

pictured above Victorious Thrashers Pose with the Cup.

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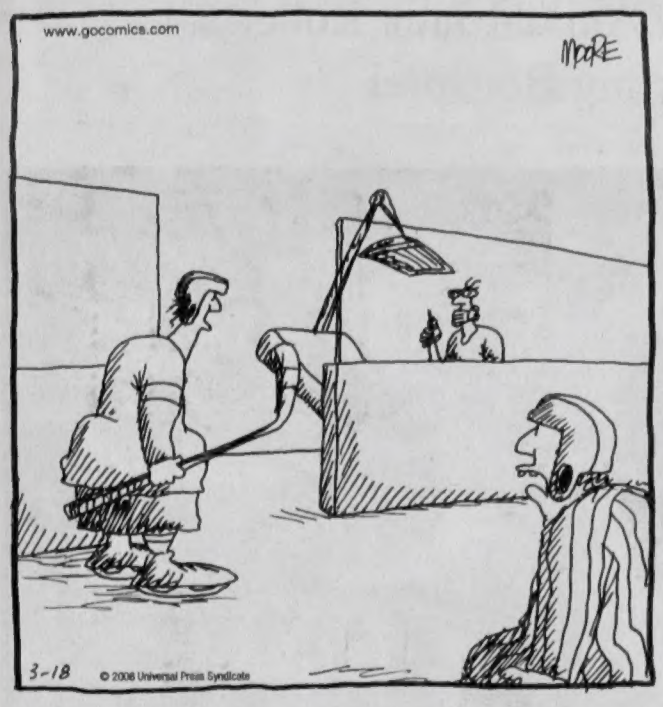

"New rule. From now on, you don't just sit in the penalty box. You also get a root canal."

Rockstar Curling and Olympic Gold

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Rock On with The Boss

Whooo-Weeee! This just in from the Toronto Star.

"NBC confirmed yesterday it has an exclusive option to air a 10-episode sports reality show that will give the winners a shot at competing in the U.S. championships and even going to the 2010 Olympics.

"And one aspect that would make this a draw to the button for NBC is a plan to land closet curlers Bruce Springsteen or Jon Bon Jovi as part of the show, assuming the rockers aren't worried what being connected to a sport with brooms might do to their images."

Sports Column

"Rockstar Curling" will give participants a chance to fulfill an Olympic Dream at Vancouver's 2010 Winter Games.

It's times like this, I'm happy that I maintain my two passports. Through a little quirk in bookkeeping I am listed in Who's Who as the great, great, great, grandson of Sitting Bull. That heritage – albeit unproven and mostly flawed – has allowed me to claim dual American and Canadian citizenship. I reinforce and solidify that status with many implied and glorified updates to my Wikipedia page.

I read the Rockstar story in *The Star* the other day and hatched a plan.

Now, I have always had an Olympic Dream. And, I am Canadian. On ice, throwing rocks, Canadians rule. We are patently, and without doubt, beyond peer while sweeping, guiding, goading and hucking large mounds of granite down a pizzle of ice.

But, I'm also a realist. I know that time, talent and withered knees mean that I can't logistically compete for an Olympic spot in Canada against the likes of Glen Howard, Kerry Burtnyk, Jeff Stoughton, Kevin Martin and Randy Ferby.

But maybe, just maybe, those crazy years spent bonspieling in small towns in and around Winnipeg while spending 8 years earning a BA at the University of Manitoba can stand me in good stead south of the border.

As Yogi Berra once said: "Nothing ventured, nothing maimed." Thus girded I decided to go for it.

I did a little research and found that the spearhead of this initiative is New York-based sports marketing agency *mktgpartners and Carr-Hughes Productions* of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Mktgpartners has an office in Toronto and I gave them a call.

They routed my call directly to their New York offices.

"You're sure you have a US passport?" was the first question asked by Merv Swervey, the man in charge of Rockstar Curling.

"Of course," I reply. "And my Wikipedia bio gives the full history of my ties with Sitting Bull, along with a pretty impressive curling resume."

I didn't bother to tell him that the curling notations were recent additions to my Wikipedia Page.

"Look, I'm in the room here with two of the executive producers and we are really liking this connection to Sitting Bull. That is going to play well with our projected audience demographic for this show." says Swervey. "It says that you are a great, great, great grandson?"

"Yes, it certainly does say that doesn't it?" I reply. Never attempt to muddy the waters when dealing with television executives. And never, ever offer any more than they ask.

I learned that from George Costanza, on a memorable Seinfeld episode.

"It also says that you played with Kerry Burtnyk and Jeff Stoughton back in the eighties?" says Swervey.

"Yes, that's what it says," I reply. I neglect to tell him that we were all playing on stage with the Rocky Roletti Band at a post-spiel party. Stoughton, Burtnyk and I coerced onto the stage playing tambourine to Rocky Roletti's version of *Rock n' Roll Hootcheeko.*

"We really could use that angle to beef up our early ratings." says Swervey. "You know… descendant of Sitting Bull bursting from the hack. We'd marquee that up with the fact that you've curled with some former Canadian and World Champions. We think you'd be a natural."

"Well, you guys are the experts," I reply sheepishly.

And then, suddenly, I am hit with a bolt of inspiration.

"Merv," I say. "You know, I'm just thinking here and I remember a guy I went to school with at University of Manitoba… now, I'm not sure if you can use this… but we met in history class and as it turns out, he's the great, great, great grandson of General George Custer… and he just happens to be one hell of a curler."

"Whoooeeee!" says Swervey "Tell me you're not kidding… tell me.. tell me that you are not kidding! Look, get me his name and let's get this baby rolling… Let me give you a visual. Roll Graphics! *'Rocking Out... Battle of the Big Horn... Granite on Granite!'* We'll get Springsteen to pound out some lyrics and Jon Bon cranking vocals. Can you get us this guy? And I mean right now."

"Oh, I don't think that will be a problem, Merv… give me your number and about three hours, and I'll get my guy to phone your guy."

My next phone call was to my best friend John who's a teacher in Beausejour, Manitoba.

I caught up with him at the curling rink.

"John… it's Terry. You're a history teacher right? Well, you've got about 90 minutes to do some serious Google research on General George Custer… and then we've got some major work to do on your Wikipedia pages."

Just got word, via registered mail yesterday. John *Daniel George Custer* Ehinger and I will be heading to the set of Rockstar this coming fall. They are building a state-o-de-art curling rink in the Black Hills of South Dakota, so I think the fix is already in.

And the other night I got a call from a special new friend.

"Hey Terrance, this is Bruce Springsteen. I have your Wikipedia page open here… says you're a descendant of Sitting Bull."

"Yes… yes it does say that doesn't it Bruce… and, while I have you on the line… have I got an idea for an opening theme for the new show… just let me pull my guitar up close to the phone and see if you can follow me… let's rock it out!

"And remember Bruce… key of E… don't B Flat… and… Hurry Hard!" ■

1. Who was the last Chicago White Sox pitcher before Mark Buehrle in 2007 to toss a no-hitter?
2. Name the last pitcher before Roger Clemens (2003 and 2005) to pitch in a World Series while having 300 or more career victories.
3. Name the only two running backs to record 1,200 rushing yards in each of their first seven seasons in the NFL.
4. Skip Prosser reached the NCAA Tournament in men's basketball in his first season with three different schools. Name them.
5. How many times has the Detroit Red Wings' Nicklas Lidstrom won the Norris Trophy (for best NHL defenseman) in his career?
6. Boxer Jess Willard defeated Jack Johnson in 1915 to become the heavyweight champion. Who took the title from Willard in 1919?
7. Which school won the NCAA Division I wrestling championship in 2007?

Answers

1. Wilson Alvarez, 1991 versus Baltimore.
2. The Philadelphia Phillies' Steve Carlton in 1983 (he had exactly 300 victories at the time).
3. Eric Dickerson and LaDainian Tomlinson.
4. Loyola, Md.; Xavier; and Wake Forest.
5. Five times (2001, '02, '03, '06, '07).
6. Jack Dempsey.
7. The University of Minnesota. Iowa State was runner-up.

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Rick Ruttig Gets A New Look

Rick Ruttig gets a mop chop courtsey of Suzanne Mckechnie and raises $252 for Kids for Cancer Cross Canada Bike Ride. The volunteer hair cut was administered at Sir Sam's Ski Hill last week.

If after seeing this picture of Rick's new look, you think you would like to donate, go to

www.nationalkidscancerride.com

Haliburton Rotary's 31st Annual Jack Robertson Memorial Curling Bonspiel

Sixteen teams participated in the Annual Jack Robertson Memorial Curling Bonspiel last week at the Haliburton Curling Club, and a fun day was had by all.

Jack Robertson's daughter Jackie Metcalfe proudly presented the championship trophy donated by the Haliburton Rotary Club in honour of her father. This year's winning team was skipped by Del Watson, with Vice Brian Murison, 2nd Wes Lytle, and Lead Peter O'Connor.

Second Place went to the Camp Wanakita Boys skipped by Andy Gruppe, with Vice Colin Harris, 2nd Dan Crawford, and Lead Pete Kerrigan. Third Place was claimed by Glen Smith's Team, and Dave Moss' Rotary Team came in Fourth.

The Haliburton Lumber "Closest to the Button" contest was also won by Dave Moss' Team.

The Rotary Club of Haliburton would like to specially thank our prize table sponsors: Delta Pinestone Resort, Colio Estate Winery, Curry Motors, Koshlong Marina, Sir Sam's Ski Area, and the Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company. ■

Jack Robertson's daughter Jackie Metcalfe (far right) awards the winning trophy to: (left ro right) Peter O'Connor, Wes Lytle, Brian Murison, and Skip, Del Watson.

Walt Donates Daryl Sittler Collectable

(left ro right) Eric Edwards, Walt Mckechnie, Cindy & Mark Kellet.

Kids for Cancer was the recipent of this generous donation by Walk Mckechnie. The Daryl Sittler 10 point game collectable was the star auction item at Sir Sam's Ski Area Kids for Cancer Ride held last week. Cindy & Mark Kellett bid $2,000 and the cash was donated to Eric Edwards for Kids for Cancer. Mark also won the Sir Sam's Challenge Draw for $1,000 and donated that as well.

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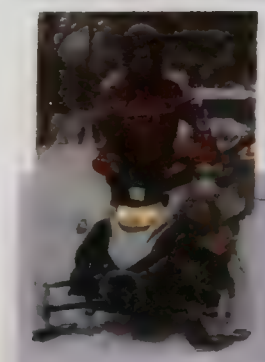
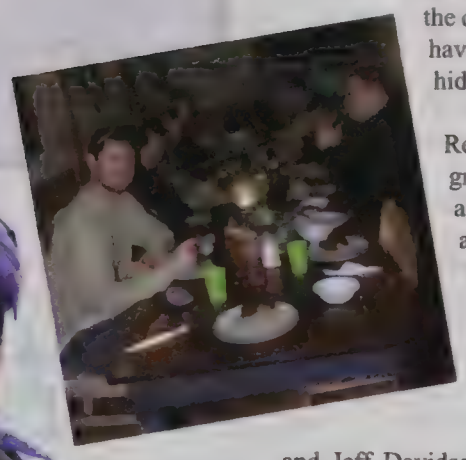
Photos By: Ben Camochan





The "Ditch Bangers" come to town

Seven hardy Russian snowmobilers spent a few days last week finding out what Canadian snowmobiling is all about. Yamaha Russia sent the seven over for a research trip to see how the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, and the Haliburton Country Snowmobile Association (HCSA) organize, prepare and groom their trails.

John Blaicher, Go Snowmobiling Campaign Coordinator with the OFSC and Chris Lang of SnowGoer Magazine were hosting and guiding the group around the Forest Reserve trails on Wednesday. Yamaha Canada asked John to be the group's host and to teach them as much as he could about the trail system here in Canada.

"They are an excellent bunch of riders and very eager to learn from their riding experience," Blaicher said. "In some respect they are even better than us at riding," John added. "While riding the Haliburton Forest trails they were tense as they were expecting to encounter a large rock or stump at any moment."

In Russia, snowmobilers are called Ditch Bangers as they ride the ditches and fields because there is no trail system: they have to be very good riders in order to quickly navigate hidden hazards.

The riders had to drive from Haliburton Forest to Redstone Lake Road to pick up their snowmobiles. The group then drove the machines from the Base Camp for about four hours, then had dinner at the Cookhouse and after that were treated to a Wolf Howl at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve.

Yamaha Russia put together this group of Russian riders by getting representatives from different cities and dealers throughout Russia, and in partnership with Yamaha Canada brought the group to Ontario

On Thursday, Margaret Zahn, HCSA Director, and Jeff Davidson, Groomer /Coordinator took the group from the Delta Pinestone in Haliburton on a 250 Kilometre tour over to Paudash Trailblazers' Clubhouse and back. "These guys were good riders, good guys, and a real pleasure to ride with," said Margaret. "Although they were shocked to be led across country by a female snowmobiler – in Russia the sport's strictly for the men, so far. They loved are trails, they really hadn't seen anything like them, they said they were just amazing."

Yamaha Russia donated $500 to both the Haliburton and Paudash clubs as a than you for sharing their information and hospitality. ■

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Library Move in Wilberforce Gets Local Support

Even on a blustery Friday night, a number of local residents gave the nod to relocating the Library in Wilberforce. What is Council's plan? Move the library from its existing location to a portion of their Medical Centre building. What's even better? If handled carefully, the move shouldn't cost any additional tax dollars.

Reeve Dave Burton and Councillor Gary Stoughton were the lone members of Council to present the details of the proposed move to a handful of residents. Burton reported that Council had been looking at the pros and cons of making the move, and had received quotations for work at both buildings to guide them in the decision making process. He assured those present that the Council had been adamant that they didn't want to make a final decision until residents in the Ward had a chance to voice their concerns. Burton said that factors to be considered include the cost of making the existing library wheel chair accessible and making structural repairs deemed necessary, a letter from the Librarian voicing concern about the distance school children would have to travel to the new location and a letter from Ken Sanderson expressing concern about the structural suitability of the medical centre.

Reeve Burton reviewed the cost estimates prepared in anticipation of the public meeting. Minimum costs to bring the existing library up to standard totaled $17,500. This would cover building a wheel chair ramp, replacing a main support beam, installing larger doors and allowing wheel chair access to the washroom. An additional $7,000 would need to be spent on siding at some time in the future. If the Council wants to expand the area used in the building to include the downstairs, a whopping $42,000 would also be needed to install a lift to the basement. Burton also reported that concerns have been raised about the water quality in the building.

On the other hand, the cost to make the Medical Centre suitable to house the library totaled $25,000 which would cover the installation of headers in the concrete walls to open the building up and to install carpet, windows and doors. This cost could be offset completely through the sale of the old library. The building is already wheel chair accessible, has excellent parking and high speed internet. Burton advised those present that Council would still retain offices for medical staff and, if the community was fortunate enough to get their own doctors and more space was required, there would be adequate room to build an addition. The designated area in the Medical Centre would offer additional square footage for the library as well and even that could be improved with a future addition to the building. Councillor Gary Stoughton voiced his concern about the high cost of heating the Medical Centre, adding that if the library was housed in the building, it would be fully utilized. Comments were made about the Community Police and Reeve Burton responded that setting up an office in the Fire Hall has been suggested as an alternate location for them.

Concerns about the distance between the school and the Medical Centre have been raised by both the librarian and school staff. However, many of those present at the meeting were of the opinion that the walk was no more difficult than to the arena for recreational activities, and should the roads be improved to include a sidewalk or widened shoulders in the near future, the walk would be safe and in all likelihood, good exercise for the children.

Ken Sanderson initially voiced concerns about being able to make structural changes to the Medical Centre, but after viewing proposals to open the area up with the use of headers, he withdrew his objections. Sanderson felt very strongly that the Council should not put any money into the existing library facility, saying it wasn't worth the investment. Sanderson then talked about his dream of a new school in Wilberforce and the existing school being used as the library. This led to quite a bit of discussion about the school and Sanderson's fear that the community would lose the school altogether given the fact that many children are being bussed out of the community. He was adamant that the community deserved a new school and gym and that there is lots of land to support a new school. He also said that the Council should be pushing for a new school, adding that it was his fear that if the community let the school issue slide, they would lose it, and the Post Office would be next. Reeve Burton and Councillor Stoughton both agreed that Council should approach the School Board.

Reeve Burton spoke with pride of Highlands East being unique in their desire to keep and maintain their libraries. He admitted that making the move to the Medical Centre may not be the best long term solution, but added that something did have to be done fairly soon and the move being proposed would be very cost effective. Hilda Clark, who voiced her support for the move from the start of the meeting, summarized things well, and seemed to speak for everyone in the room by saying that the community owns the building and if the $25,000 needed to upgrade the Medical Centre could be recovered through the sale of the old library, it would be a win/win situation. There was absolutely no argument there. ■

Summer Games Update

County Council to Decide March 26th

Last month County Warden Eleanor Harrison sent a Letter of Intent to Sports Alliance Ontario giving notice that the County will be submitting a full proposal at the end of March to host the annual Ontario Summer Games in August of 2010.

As the deadline approaches, the County Voice caught up with Dennis Casey and Bob Nichol, both former Dysart Councillors and long time community volunteers who are heading up a committee to prepare the bid. The Ontario Summer Games take place in August each year and features 26 events ranging from archery to kayaking to canoeing, track and field, and mountain biking, swimming, baseball, lacrosse, to name just a few. Casey and Nichol are happy to report that the response from the community's camps and businesses has been outstanding.

"We've got commitments to house the 3800 athletes around the County with the support of many of our Camps," said Casey. "We're selling our proposal as a total "Games Experience" and together with the Camps we'll be offering unique evening programming in areas such as astronomy, fishing, nature education and appreciation. In addition, local resorts are coming on side, because they'll be at least 380 officials staying in the County that week, and we estimate that an additional 4000 family and friends will be traveling here as well to view the events."

The committee has also firmed up venues for almost all of the events: a few cannot be held here, and negotiations are under way with three locations close to here to host the swimming and water polo. As well, the four Municipalities have been approached and asked to consider upgrading existing soccer, baseball and tennis facilities. "We might have to go to Fenelon or Bobcaygeon for some field events," said Casey, "but every host of the Games so far has had to spread some of the events around."

Each host must also have a 'Legacy' program in place, i.e. something that will be a permanent part of the community after the Games are over. The committee is proposing that an all-weather track and field facility at the Haliburton High School be that legacy, which would benefit athletes County-wide. With the County Council set to decide the bid's fate at its March 26th meeting, the committee has been delighted with the community response so far and looks forward to the Council's decision. ■

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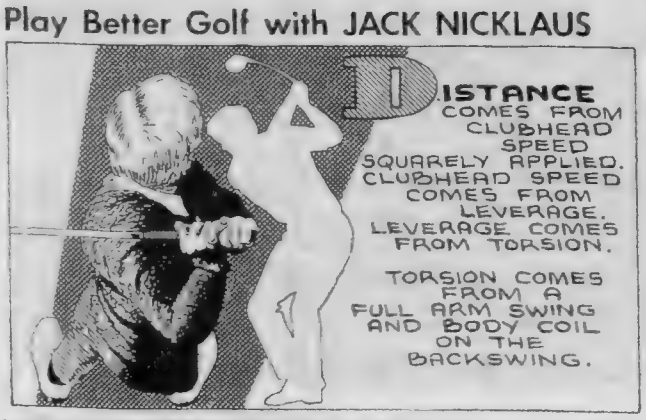

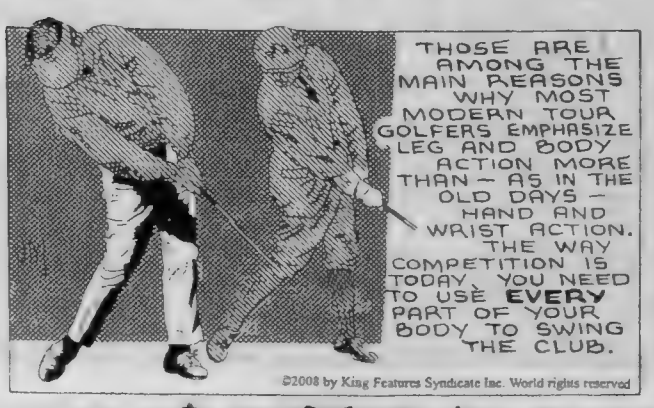

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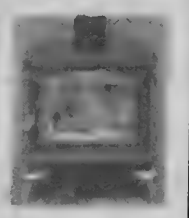

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"Wild Game Night" at the Haliburton Legion

It was a festive occasion for the over 200 people who showed up for "Wild Game Night" at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, March 8, when the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) hosted their annual major fundraiser.

"We've been having our wild game dinner since 1990," said HHOA President Keith Hodgson. "This is very important to our club, it's quite an undertaking."

Patrons were able to taste varieties of different meat for dinner including: moose, venison, bear, elk, buffalo, wild boar and beaver. Lake Trout and Salmon were also on the menu.

The focal point of the event was the silent auction. "The items have been donated from here and other areas," said Director for the HHOA Kim Roberts. "I never have to beg people for donations. They know what it's for." "Most of the donations are from big members of our club," commented Hodgson.

"This helps to keep the lights on," said Robert Fraser, Chair of Fundraising. Fraser was busy running around behind the scenes to help organize the event, as well as collect items for the auction. The event also featured a raffle table where winners were randomly drawn.

The HHOA is a non-profit organization founded in 1992. Currently the group has a total of 250 members consisting of permanent and seasonal residents of the Haliburton Highlands. According to their website, the group is "committed to the sustainable management of natural resources." ■

Fire Department News From Around the County

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

There's been some pretty good stuff happening with the Fire Departments in both Highlands East and Dysart.

For members of the Fire Department and Council in Highlands East the best news came when tenders for four new fully decked trucks were opened on Friday in Highlands East. And, for a change tenders were received within Council's budget estimate, something that can be a rarity but is evidence of the hard work that went into early development of specifications and cost estimates. Six companies were invited to submit tenders and three were received. Fort Gary Industries of Winnipeg bid $803,368, Asphodel Fire Trucks out of Norwood bid $735,000 and Dependable Emergency Vehicles from Brampton bid $694,010. Dependable's bid was disqualified as they failed to include some of the equipment included in the specs. Council passed a resolution accepting Asphodel's tender of $735,000 subject to financing. The 'subject to' clause is a formality as the administration meets the final requirements for debenture borrowing. Delivery of both tankers will take place in about a month and the pumpers will be delivered by the end of the year. In the meantime, Fire Chief Bill Wingrove says "this finally puts the Fire Department back on the map!" Wingrove also says "some of the fire fighters have been using old or outdated equipment for a long time and repair bills alone over the last 10 years could have bought a new truck." Wingrove, who has been involved in the plans to buy new equipment from the very early stages, says he couldn't be happier with Council's decision to proceed with the purchase. He says this is a huge morale booster for the fire fighters.

Chief Wingrove had high praise for his department at the Council meeting. Wingrove reported that February was a very busy month for responses and says his fire fighters performed exceptionally to save a home next to a burning burn. He added that the Fire Marshall was so impressed with their efforts at a home in Harcourt. he has turned it into a training exercise.

Meanwhile, Dysart Council passed a by-law this week to appoint Don Stephenson to the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Stephenson has been with the Fire Department since 1988 and brings a wealth of experience to the position. Council also approved a request by Stephenson to bring some recommendations for the future of the department to their meeting in April.

Fire Chief Miles Maughan also brought a recommendation forward to Council that the fire fighters should be given recognition for years of service. Council approved awards for increments of 5 years to 25 years which are to be handed out at the annual fire fighters' spousal appreciation night. A budget of $2,000 has been set aside to get the program off the ground. Dysart Council also approved the purchase of a new repeater and a number of radios, for both the Fire and Roads Departments. Three bids for the equipment were reviewed and Council approved the bid received from Halcom Communications for $11,638.

Chief Maughan also reported two arson fires in the Stedmans' washroom in Haliburton. These fires were set in the garbage bins, one on a 30 below night and another was set at JD Hodgson Elementary School in an outside recycling container. The OPP are assisting with the investigation into these fires.

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Help Keep Our Lakes And Rivers Clean And Safe

Ice Anglers Required To Remove Ice Huts Before Spring Thaw

The Ontario government is reminding ice anglers and others using the lakes in and around the Bancroft District to remove their ice huts and help keep the lake environment clean and safe.

"Every year as spring approaches, many ice anglers have difficulty removing their ice huts because of unanticipated thaws." said Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield. "Huts that go through the ice pose a hazard to the environment and are a safety concern for boaters."

Ice hut owners are responsible for maintaining their huts and removing them prior to the spring thaw. The deadline for removing ice huts from lakes and rivers in Fisheries Management Zone 18 is March 15 and from lakes and rivers in Fisheries Management Zone 15 is March 31.

Owners who abandon their ice huts or store them on Crown land, islands, shore lands or access points are in violation of the Public Lands Act. Owners may be fined and could be liable for removal costs. Anglers and recreational users are also reminded to clean up and take away their garbage.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ■

Sewage Blues in Algonquin Highlands

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The Council for Algonquin Highlands has reluctantly decided any partnership for sewage treatment will have to be put up on blocks for now. Recommendations to work with neighboring municipalities during their environmental assessment process seemed like at good thing to pursue, particularly if there could be cost saving measures for both Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills. Unfortunately, based on the results of a study conducted by D. M .Wills Associates for Minden Hills, Reeve Eleanor Harrison and CAO Lorne Mitchell both suggested to Council that partnerships are simply not feasible at this time.

For starters, Minden Hills have an aerated plant for handling septage. In order to receive and treat raw sewage a mechanical pre-treatment plant would be required at considerable expense. Estimates given at a recent Minden Hills Council meeting were fairly broad coming in anywhere between one and two million dollars. Mitchell reported that the Minden Hills Council heard recommendations from their consultants to maintain the status quo for now with respect to making any substantial improvements to their systems, but to consider a full environmental assessment in preparation for future community development. One of the problems with either community proceeding in any particular direction seems to be that the Ministry of Environment has yet to establish firm regulations regarding sewage treatment, particularly on how to regulate the use of field applications. Further discussions at their meeting ended in Minden Hills agreeing to set up meetings with Ministry of Environment representatives in efforts to get clarification and some direction. However, according to Mitchell, in a subsequent telephone call with Minden Hills Environmental Manager Bob Romberg, it appears that plans to have a meeting with the Ministry have also been put on the proverbial shelf. Both Romberg and Mitchell agree that for now, the door to any partnership has been closed.

Reeve Harrison voiced her frustration with the process overall, saying that despite the monies spent to date and their progress with an environmental assessment, Algonquin Highlands still has no clear direction to take and must simply continue to baby their existing systems. One thing Harrison did say was how impressed she was with the recommendations of D. M. Wills to Minden Hills Council. She said that in the last 20 years, she had never heard an "if it's not broke..... don't fix it" attitude from a consultant. Harrison said it was her experience that most consultants are far too willing to recommend large expenditures to municipalities. Reeve Harrison did suggest that even though Algonquin Highlands had to step back from partnerships for now, they still have to discuss how they should proceed from here. Council concurred and next steps will be discussed at their meeting in April. ■

$1,750 Fine For Trespassing And Deer Poaching

Two Minden men have been fined $1,750, and banned from hunting for a year, for shooting from the road and killing a white-tailed deer that was on private property.

William Reid, 62, was fined $1,000 and received a one-year hunting suspension. Brandon Reid, 17, was fined $750, received a one-year hunting suspension and is required to retake the Ontario Hunter Safety Education course. Both men pleaded guilty under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Court heard on November 12, 2007, the men saw a white-tailed deer on private property while driving on Bethel Road, north of Minden. Brandon Reid shot and killed the deer from the road. The men loaded the deer into William Reid's truck and took it to their home.

Justice of the Peace Diane Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Minden, on March 6, 2008.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ■

Motor Vehicle Collision

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment were called to the scene of a personal injury accident on Highway #35 in Algonquin Highlands early Saturday afternoon.

The investigation revealed that a Silver Dodge Dakota was southbound on Highway #35 when the driver lost control and the vehicle entered into the northbound lane. The Dakota was then struck by a Pontiac that was northbound on Highway #35.

The driver of the Pontiac, Lindsay Archer 27 years of Minden was taken to hospital by ambulance suffering from non-life threatening injuries.

The driver of the Dodge, Christopher Morgan 27 years of Scarborough was not injured.

This collision was one of three that were reported on Haliburton area roads over the weekend and it would appear that driver's in the county showed good judgement by either driving according to the conditions or simply staying home. ■

Young Orators Compete At Legion

Young student orators will hone their speaking skills at the annual Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest to be held at branch 636 Minden 7:00p.m. , March 18.

Students from Archie Stouffer School, Minden, grades 1 through 8, will compete for cash prizes and a chance to compete in the legion's Provincial wide contest to be held later this year. A first place cash prize of $25, a second prize of $20 and a third place prize of $15 will be awarded to the top 3 speakers, after selection by a panel of judges.

Speakers will select their own topics .Winner of first place in the evening's event will go on to speak at the legion's Zone F competition in Hailburton, March 29, and compete against contestants from 13 other legion branches.

The event is free, open to the public and will be held in the main lounge. The Royal Canadian Legion, Minden Branch 636 is located on Highway 35 North and CR 21. ■

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Dan Akroyd Could Be Next...

Even a Blizzard Couldn't Stop Alfie

Canadian Smooth Jazz Nominee artist puts listeners under his spell

Despite the horrid weather on Saturday, March 8, people still managed to find their way to the Delta Pinestone Resort for a night with Juno-award winning artist Alfie Zappacosta.

The Italian-born, but proud Canadian artist, wowed those in attendance at the Grand Ballroom with songs from his latest album "Bonafide," as well as some classic hits from his abundant collection. The accomplished vocalist, guitarist, songwriter and actor, also had viola/accordion player Claudio Venna with him and keyboard player Ross Wooldrige.

Zappacosta, known for incorporating pop and rock elements into his music, started on a mission in 1995 to stray from his usual ways. He began injecting more of a jazz influence into his performances and recordings. Though he already was an experienced guitar player, Zappacosta branched out to utilize other instruments in his music, resulting in a more heartfelt and unconventional sound. It was his way of making something different than what the music industry was use to hearing.

Many fans and first-time listeners of the artist's music felt fulfilled after Zappacosta's show and couldn't seem to get enough.

"I was pleasantly surprised," said Dave Allan of Canoe FM. "He just has a great voice. It was a very poignant performance that was worth coming out for the in the storm."

"It's very good entertainment," said Michelle Roche of Haliburton. "He has an amazing range in his voice and the back-ups are very nice."

A close friend of Alfie's and Marketing Administrator for the Delta Pinestone Resort, Wanda Robinson, decided to jump at the chance in asking him to play in Haliburton.

I've known Alfie for 17 years," said Robinson during the first intermission. Robinson first approached Zappacosta with the idea of putting on a show in Haliburton when he performed at the Delta Grandview Resort back in November.

"We want to start providing entertainment which appeals to the cottagers and more of the local people… we have a new owner and a new outlook," she said of the new marketing strategies. For Robinson, attracting high-caliber talent at the right time is also the key ingredient to creating a successful event.

"This was a feeling-out event to see if we could get people out. We'll now be looking at future events for the May, June, July and August long weekends."

"They key for us is to constantly create activity," said Kevin Wyre, General Manager of the Delta Pinestone Resort. Wyre went on to say that these events are great for the County and that they are a means of creating activity for people during the less busy months.

"During down-time it's a way of bringing people into the town," said Wyre. "We hope that people see it as a positive thing for the community." As far as the near future planning goes, he says that there are currently a few "irons in the fire."

"During the May long weekend we are trying to attract some entertainment. We're looking at maybe getting Dan Akroyd to do a Blue Brothers type of concert, which would also be a wine and dinner night." ■

Lions Club Gather Donations All Over County

Volunteers collect money to put back into the community

It was "Tag Day" in Haliburton County on Saturday, March 9.

No, this wasn't a game involving running around as the name might imply. but rather an annual fundraising initiative held by the Haliburton Lions Club. A grand total of $1281.00 was raised.

"The money will go back into the community," said volunteer and member, Dave Mills, who began raising funds at 9 a.m. in front of Haliburton's Beer Store. For each donation made, a Lions Club bookmark was issued. Donations of any amount were accepted.

"They can give whatever. Every penny counts," said Mills. According to Mills, the last tag day was held in September when funds were raised for the fight against diabetes.

"To give you a conservative estimate, we raise between $20,000 to $25,000 each year with all of the fundraisers we do," he said.

Other volunteers were at various locations, some of which included: Haliburton IGA, Rexall and Todd's Independent Grocer.

"One guy gave me a $5 bill!" said a pleasantly surprised Geraldine Espie, shaking her collection can to advertise the generous amounts of donations.

"It has been busier than I expected," said Betty Mills, of the traffic-flow going in and out of the Rexall.

In a phone interview following the event, Mills told us about how the day went.

"It was a pretty slow day in town, I think it might have been because of the weather," said Mills. "I think that the people who were at the grocery stores did real well."

This fundraiser is just one example of what Lions Club members participate in. In addition to helping their out in their own communities. the volunteers also extend their services to provide aid for global initiatives. ■

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New Director For Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Rails End Programming Manager Daniela Pagliaro-Chosen

"I was young, and I had to re-invent myself"

George Farrell
County Voice

There is nothing like the Minden Hills Cultural Centre in any similar-sized community in Ontario, and possibly the entire country. With the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, The Minden Hills Museum, the library and its upcoming extension, and the brand new R.D. Lawrence Place, the Centre will be the envy of many towns, and even small cities. We are extremely fortunate to have such a facility in the Highlands.

With all the new construction and programming comes a time of change in the administration of the facility as well. Dianne Graham is stepping down, and she will be sorely missed by everyone who is aware of the tremendous job she has done as chief administrator.

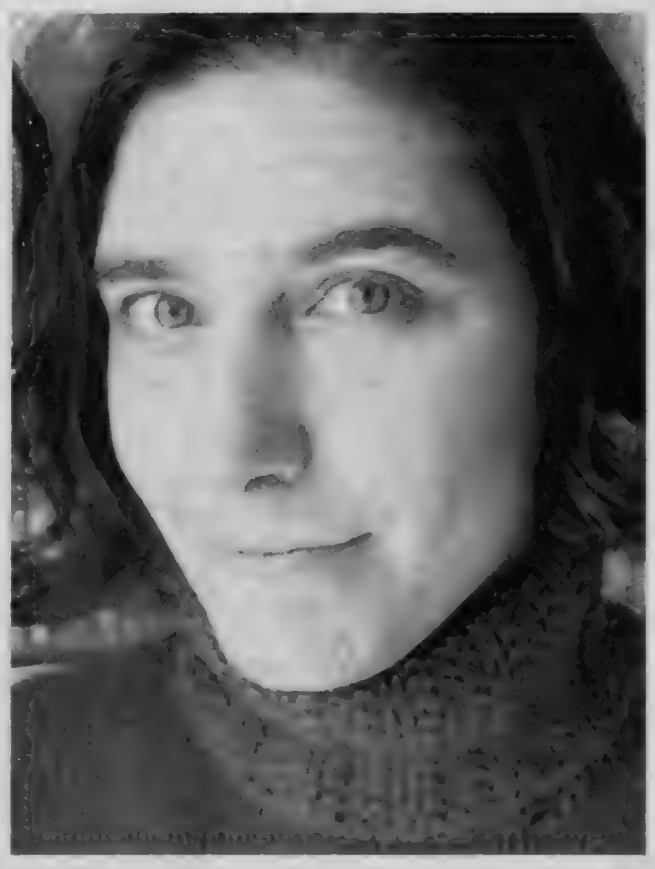
The new Director of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre is Daniela Pagliaro, who has been the Programming Manager of the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton. While there are no hard and fast rules as to what experiences make up a good administrator of such a unique facility as the Cultural Centre, Daniela has many of the requirements needed to insure that the Centre proceeds to the next steps in an organized and focused manner.

Daniela is a first generation Canadian. She and younger sister Stefanie were born to Italian parents and raised in the 'Greek Town' area of Toronto. Like many Italians Daniela is part of an extended family, and her grandparents are still an important part of her life. The family still speaks Italian at home and Daniela travels to Toronto about once a month, with her ten-year old daughter Nadia, to visit her family. As you might expect, those festivities are often centered on the cultural civilities of food and wine.

Dance is also a large part of Daniela's make-up. "I grew up in the Canadian Childrens Dance Theatre," she reveals. "At the time it was the only one around, and it exposed me to the best teachers at a young age. Dance completely made me who I am. It taught me discipline, a work ethic, resourcefulness, and the ability to think creatively, and to look beyond the norm."

She wanted to become a full time professional dancer but injuries prevented that. "I was young," she recalls, "and I had to re-invent myself, so and I decided to go to York University." At York she studied fine arts; specifically dance, as well as psychology. After graduating, she traveled extensively for a time, to such locations as South East Asia, Africa, and Costa Rica.

After her travels Daniela ended up on the west coast of Canada, where for a while she worked as a deck hand on a boat. Dance called her back to solid ground however, and she continued to dance independently. It was around this time that Nadia was born, and for Daniela it was a watershed time. She had to settle down somewhat and find a job, and she did just that by landing a position which used her psychology training. Her job was working with native youth on Campbell Island, which is north of Vancouver Island. The year was 1996, and there was no youth programming or youth centre. "That experience showed me that I loved creating new initiatives for small communities and that I was good at it. I started bringing my arts into the youth programming, and we started story telling and drama clubs. It was there that I co-coordinated my first 'artist in the community' project by bringing in dance and percussion artists to perform in the community."



Two of the people she bought to the native island community were Janice Pomer, a dancer, and Barry Prophet, an artist and drummer. They were Daniela's community arts mentors, and they remain friends to this day. In fact Daniela bought Barry to the Highlands, where he had his own show at the Rails End Gallery.

After her contract was up on the west coast, Daniela headed back east to Toronto, but after her native community experience she didn't feel the need to be in a big city, so she applied to Family Services (now called Point in Time), as a youth worker. "I was there for a year and a half, and things started coming together even more," Daniela says. "I was able to work with youth on programs that incorporated the arts, dance, and outdoor education, as vehicles for self expression, discovery and self confidence. It was transforming experiential stuff, which gives youth an outlet for creative expression."

Her position at Family Services came to an end as funding dried up. In the meantime Daniela had fallen in love with the Highlands, and she was reluctant to leave. She could see that the area was growing and she thought that the arts in Haliburton County were on the verge of great things. She kept that in the back of her mind, but she had to seek employment elsewhere, and she ended up on Manitoulin Island, where she stayed for three years, working independently as a dance teacher and community arts practitioner. In addition to generating her own income, Daniela was also able to generated funding for the community from the Ontario Arts Council, as well as the Canadian Council for the Arts, no mean feat, as any arts- based fundraiser will tell you.

Daniela Pagliaro learned a great deal more during her stint on Manitoulin Island. "I actually made a living," she laughs incredulously. "I guess it was due to industriousness, but I brought in well known dance companies for teaching and performing, and I gained great experience in presenting and coordinating events around artists in the community."

Periodically Daniela would make trips back to the Highlands through Ontario Arts Council funding "to deliver 'artists in education' projects in the public schools in Wilberforce, Minden and Haliburton. I was there to help the teachers to deliver these programs," she states. She also managed to find the time to teach dance workshops through the Heritage Ballet and Haliburton Dance Arts.

Eventually Manitoulin took its toll, inasmuch as it was just too far from her family. "It was about 7 hours back to Toronto, and besides, I never really wanted to leave Haliburton. Whenever I returned I could see the transformation in the arts. I could see where it was going and I wanted to be a part of that. I loved the community, and so did Nadia, and it was just close enough to my family in Toronto."

A position came up for a Program Manager and Curator at the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton. Daniela applied and landed the job, and she moved back permanently in 2005. During her tenure at the Rails End Daniela has been the community liaison for the tremendously successful Dusk Dances, and she confides, "We're presently exploring the idea of making Dusk Dances a permanent summer event for our communities."

Daniela has also occupied a jury seat on the Ontario Arts Council, where she helped in making funding application decisions. It gave her "an inside view on what constitutes a good proposal, and what gets funded. It was a fantastic experience."

She has been pleased with many of the shows at the Rails End that she's curated, and she feels she's worked well with gallery director Laurie Jones to create a 'community centre' environment. "The kids are knitting, learning sculpture, and learning about great Canadian and International artists. This is most important to me. I've loved the Rails End and working with the community and with Laurie. I feel my feet are now firmly in the community, and I've bought a house."

Not one to stand pat, Daniela likes to push her comfort zone. A point in case is her love of hockey. "I've learned to skate, and I love playing pick-up hockey even though I don't feel comfortable on skates. But that's how you grow."

And grow she has. "I saw the application for the Cultural Centre position and I thought that although it was a big step, the job description and my background meshed. I started to get excited. Laurie gave me her blessing to pursue the position, and I met with members of Minden Hills Council, and current Director of the Cultural Centre Dianne Graham, and

>> *Story cont'd... pg.17 ...*

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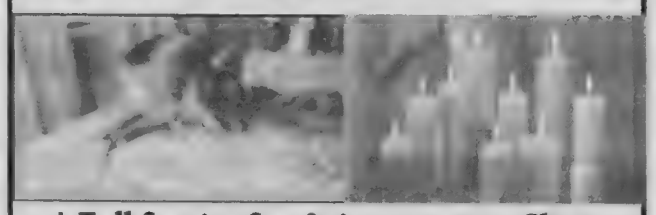

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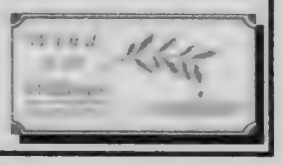

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Gravel Pit Quandary

"Council has been given Conflicting Evidence"

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

A gravel pit application to Dysart Council, Planning Session, on Monday proved too much for Council to handle. Faced with two opposing parties and far too much conflicting evidence Council found they were unable to make a clear cut decision in anyone's favor.

The story started last June with Dale Griffin making an application to the Ministry of Natural Resources for the right to operate a gravel pit on land owned by Jamie Griffin and Cindy Vader on Backwoods Lane in Guilford. Griffin holds a lease on the 100 acre parcel for the gravel rights. According to Dysart Planner Pat Martin, part of the Ministry's requirements include the applicant demonstrating that the pit is either properly zoned (that being MX or Extractive Industrial) or is grandfathered under non conforming status. To meet that requirement Council must confirm the zoning status with the Ministry.

A brief review of the Ministry's website listing information that must be included in any application to operate a pit or quarry indicates that the Ministry also requires information like haulage routes, how the pit will be operated, quantities to be extracted from the pit annually and plans for long term restoration of the site. The Ministry requires that written notice of any application be given to adjacent land owners who may be affected by the land use. Information on the site also clearly states that if the zoning of the land under application does not allow the operation of a pit, no license will be issued.

The land in question presently has a rural designation but Griffin presented Council with four affidavits from residents in the area in efforts to prove that it had been used as a gravel pit on at least two previous occasions and should be granted non conforming status by Council. Referring to other residents in the area, some of whom were present at the meeting, Griffin suggested that those in opposition may have misunderstood the actual location of the pit he proposes to operate on the 100 acre parcel. Griffin offered various maps to show where the pit was purported to have been operated in the past and the site where he wants to operate. He also suggested that he was willing to move his operation further back on the property if it would appease concerns by neighboring properties.

Kathy Adams then asked Council if she could make a presentation. Adams, who was present with her husband Corey and a handful of supporters, prefaced her statements by saying that she understood Griffin's position and his desire to seek new sources of granular material given his livelihood. However, Adams argued that there had never been a pit on the property, which is across from her home. She also questioned the accuracy of information provided by Griffin, saying that the alleged pit should not have legal non conforming status. Adams spoke at length about the definitions of pits saying that if the land had, in fact been used as a commercial operation in the past Griffin would have applied for a change in zoning status before now. She also argued that Griffin had no proof of ongoing use of the land as a pit and offered her own evidence in the form of a letter from an adjacent land owner that there had never been a pit at the site. Adams went so far as to allege that one of the affidavits offered by Griffin had been received as a result of coercion and questioned Griffin's credibility, saying that he was grasping at straws to get a ruling that will allow him non conforming status. Adams quoted Canadian Municipal law saying that in order to be classified as a pit the land would have to have ongoing and active or continuous use. Adams also suggested that even if Griffin had receipts proving extraction and sale of gravel, it did not prove where the material came from. She ended her presentation by requesting Council deny Griffins request for a non conforming designation.

Reeve Murray Fearrey thanked both parties for their presentation and advised everyone that Council would proceed into a closed session to consider their decision. After approximately 20 minutes Council returned to an open session and Fearrey advised everyone present that they had considered the information they had received carefully but they had insufficient information to make a decision. Fearrey added that Council had been given conflicting evidence and they felt it was beyond their mandate to rule either in favor or against the request by Griffin. The Reeve also advised Griffin that his options would now be to formally apply to rezone the land or to seek further legal assistance. ■

>> Daniela Pagliaro Cont'd...

I thought the interview went well. Then Gary Morrison the CAO called me in mid February, and gave me the great news." Daniela's new position starts on March 17th.

Daniela's move from the Rails End Gallery to the Cultural Centre promises to be a bonus for both organizations, and for the arts community as a whole, because 'I've already talked to Laurie about future collaborative projects, and how we can work together to put this region on the map outside our borders. We feel that Haliburton is unique and should be recognized as such by the Canadian arts community."

Daniela Pagliaro realizes she has great challenges in her new position. "One of the biggest is containing all my ideas and distilling them down to the do-able." Then, getting more serious she states, " I'm overseeing a lot of initiatives, and all the various staffs of the library, museum, art gallery and the R.D. Lawrence place, and it's a huge challenge to keep each element self sustaining. Specifically the challenge is to find a way to generate more revenue and balance that with the possibility of decreased Provincial and Federal government funding in the future. A great strength of the Cultural Centre is the fact that it's a department of the Municipality of Minden Hills, and it's huge for a local government to put so much value into arts and culture. It's like an urban centre. The goal is to make arts and culture as valuable to our communities' heritage as hockey is, and you know I love hockey. I'm also looking at how to bridge the divide, and finding ways to bring people from downtown Minden, over the bridge. Archie Stouffer is a serious partner, and I have a long-standing relationship with them."

It's obvious that Daniela knows what some of the strengths and challenges are with the Cultural Centre. That she has the savvy to deal with them is unquestioned, and she gets a hearty boost from outgoing director Dianne Graham. "She clearly has contacts in the arts community. She's been a leader in creating events like Dusk Dances, art in the schools, working with students and volunteers, and seeking and obtaining grants. She's very familiar with the processes, and she brings a professional attitude and an enthusiasm to the position. In the future, one of the things Daniela will have to deal with is bringing in groups like students and seniors from outside the area, who will be coming in busses and coaches." ■

Make Your Mark - Area Residents Can Sign Petition To Show Their Support for Smoke-Free Vehicles

Local residents are being asked to give a show of support for a ban on smoking in vehicles when children are present.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is organizing a petition drive between now and March 26, 2008. Residents of Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes are encouraged to sign the petition, which asks the Ontario government to implement a ban on smoking in vehicles if anyone 16 years of age and younger is inside. Premier Dalton McGuinty is pledging to enact such a law this spring.

"Every child deserves to breathe clean air, and that's why we encourage local residents to show their support for smoke-free vehicle legislation by making their mark on the petition," says Sireesha Bobbili, a Health Promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit.

Copies of the petition can be signed at either of these Health Unit offices: in Lindsay at 108 Angeline Street South, and in Haliburton Village at 191 Highland Street (Unit 301). Local residents can also download a petition (available at www.hkpr.on.ca under What's New) and circulate it themselves. All petitions must be returned to the Health Unit office in Lindsay by noon on March 26. Signed petitions will be forwarded to Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, who will present them to the Ontario Legislature.

According to the Ontario Medical Association, second-hand smoke can be 23 times more concentrated in a vehicle than in a house because circulation is restricted within the small space. Bobbili notes that children who are exposed to second-hand smoke have a higher risk of respiratory illness such as asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia, as well as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Youngsters exposed to deadly second-hand smoke can also suffer from cancer and heart disease as adults, she adds.

"With the momentum building towards a ban on smoking in cars, the petition is perfectly timed to give local residents the chance to voice their support for protecting the health of children," Bobbili says.

The Board of Health for the HKPR District Health Unit has already endorsed the need for such legislation. At its meeting in February, Board of Health members approved a motion encouraging the Ontario government to approve smoke-free vehicle legislation and provide adequate resources to ensure the ban can be enforced. ■

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Seeing Afghanistan Through the Eyes of a Soldier

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

"It's all about people helping people."

That was the message heard loud and clear by students at Stuart Baker Elementary School, who had the rare privilege of seeing a "real-life" soldier up close and in person. Major Ross Cossar of the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment visited the students on Thursday, March 6, to tell them all about life in Afghanistan; seen through a soldiers eye.

"You can help people no matter where you are," said Cossar during his slideshow presentation titled "Rebuilding Afghanistan." Cossar, who has been a member of the army reserve in Peterborough for 21 years, came to the school to teach kids about the culture, customs, practices people in the country follow and the ongoing battle against Taliban forces. It was also a chance to tell them about the continuing rebuilding efforts taking place in the war-torn country.

"Every individual can help someone else to make this a better world," began the soldier. Cossar, who spent seven months in Afghanistan last year, told the large group of students that "the kids there are just like you kids here." He then pointed out a group picture of children taken in Afghanistan.

"There's even a red-head in there!" he pointed out in the photo.

"Just like me!" answered back one of the kids.

Many children were surprised when they saw some of the photos in the Major's collection of 140. Some of these included pictures of run-down buildings, nomads, weaponry and even a Tim Hortons that is located in Kandahar.

"There are broken buildings all over Afghanistan because of 30 years of war. The people get broken as well," he said, while showing photos of those who aren't faring well in the country.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions, such as, "What kind of money do they use?" and "Have you ever been shot at?"

The soldier also spoke of the self-fulfillment he found in aiding with the rebuilding of a nation.

"During the time of the Taliban, kids couldn't play soccer, girls couldn't go to school," he said. "Now boys and girls go to the same schools." He also mentioned that roads and highways are getting rebuilt, places without electricity are getting repaired and that people are finally enabling themselves to express their culture which is so important to them. These, as a result, are made possible by the people who have put in collective efforts towards improving Afghanistan.

"These soldiers are proud of what they do," said Cossar. The soldier admits that the rebuilding process of rebuilding the country is slow; however, things are starting to look up.

"You can accept a meal from someone, share information with each other. You can be a doctor and go to help people you don't know. You can be in the military or be a civilian; or come from an international place. You can keep on learning and overcome adversity together."

Many of the students found the presentation informative and compelling.

"It was good," said Allie Paul. "I liked the pictures of Afghanistan."

"It was really cool seeing a soldier," said Grade 3 student, Abby Gordon. "I liked learning about Afghanistan people."

The whole idea for bringing the guest speaker to the school was formed shortly after students sent care packages away to soldiers in Afghanistan during Christmas. Tracy Craftchick, a mom of one of the students, said that a friend of hers who personally knows Cossar, informed him of what the students had done. It was shortly thereafter that the soldier decided to pay the kids a visit.

"It was great that they were able to make that connection with a soldier. It's their first real-life soldier, as they call him," said Grade 1 teacher Meghan Kennedy. According to Kennedy, approximately 100 students were at the event.

Kennedy herself found it fascinating how Cossar gave such a descriptive first-hand account of what life is really like in the country.

"I like how he said that over there it's a battle between "sheeps and wolves," and that the soldiers are the ones in the middle," said Kennedy. She also said that the presentation gave students a good look at how life elsewhere in the world can have its share of similarities and differences to those of our own town.

"I think it's great for them to see people and places that exist outside of Haliburton." ■

"I think it's great for them to see people and places that exist outside of Haliburton."

One-on-One with Major Ross Cossar

Taking Steps in the Right Direction

He's could be called a man's man. But one thing's for sure; he's a man who takes immense pride in knowing that his efforts are going towards bettering the lives of others.

"I'm one piece of that bigger picture," said Major Ross Cossar of the Hastings Prince Edward Regiment in Peterborough. Prior to his July 2006 initial arrival in Afghanistan, Cossar was in training mode for the long journey ahead.

"I had six months of training for my particular job. It prepared me for the job I was going to; it just sort of honed my soldier skills and made sure that I was good to go," said Cossar after his presentation at Stuart Baker Elementary School. Since he was a reservist at the time, he said that he had to ask if he could go into Afghanistan. He also made sure he had the ok from his family members before proceeding.

"Besides being hot…" said Cossar of the Afghan climate, "It was exciting to be there in the start and get involved."

At first, he was placed in an office working for the police and for army development.

"It was mainly brain-work," he said of his job, which had him going to meetings - helping to see things move forward.

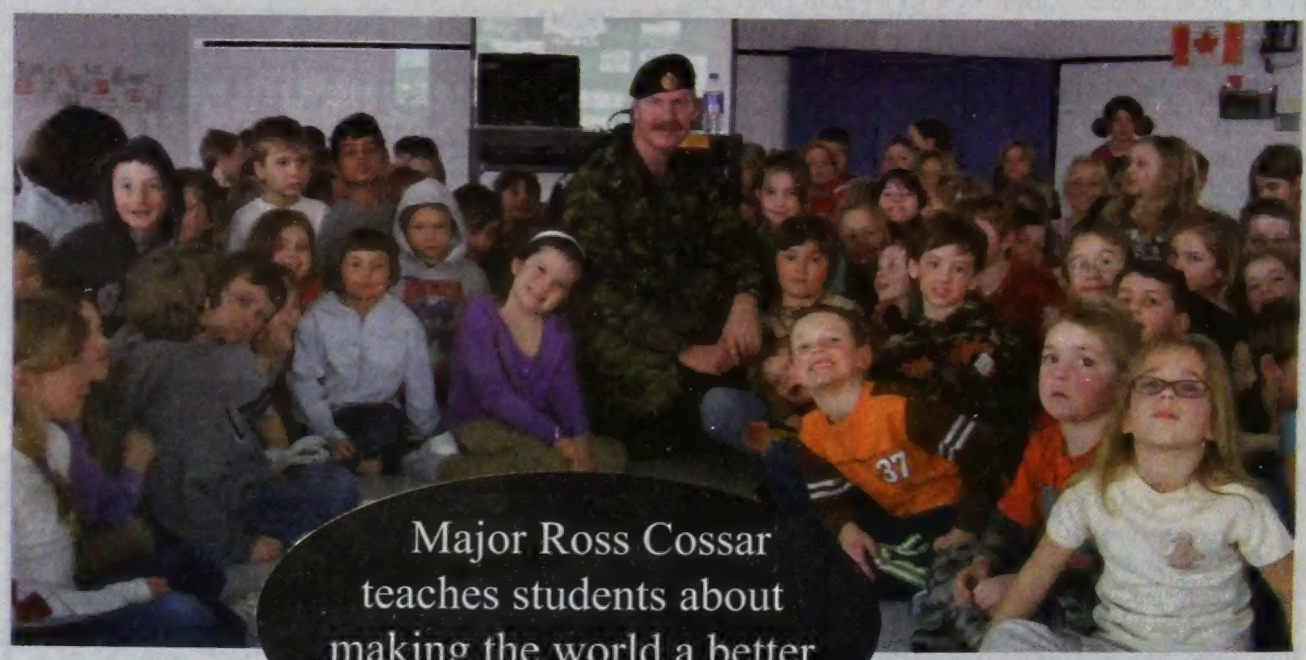
Cossar says that some of his favourite work in the country was related to the rebuilding process.

"There's so much good work being done." Though he realizes it will take a long time for the country to completely heal of its wounds, he is urging that the work continue.

"Lots of things in life are slow; nothing will be done quick. I've heard that it would take 15 years to affect health care change here in Ontario. It takes a long time and I hope they have the patience to stick with it."

As for a return trip, the soldier doesn't think that he'll be packing his bags and suiting up any time soon.

"I would like to, but no, I'm not planning to. I would like to just because I came to believe in the mission so much." Currently, Cossar, who has had several opportunities to talk to all age groups about his experiences, is working part-time at the reserve army while studying psychology at Trent University in Peterborough. He plans on becoming a military psychologist after finishing his studies. ■



Major Ross Cossar teaches students about making the world a better place

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: From time to time you print letters about finding "pennies from heaven." Are you ready for another one?

Our daughter is adopting a little boy, and our other daughter was hosting a yard sale to raise money for the airfare to bring the child to this country.

My mother, a widow, had donated my father's racing bike. It was hard for her to let go of it because Dad had won many senior Olympic medals with it.

The bike sold the first day, and I immediately called Mom to tell her the news. Right after I hung up the phone with her, I looked down at the table where my grandsons had been helping me count change. In the middle of a pile of dimes was a penny. When I picked it up, I saw it was a "wheatie." Then I turned it over and couldn't believe my eyes. The date on the penny was 1918, the year my father was born.

Although this may not be your typical "pennies from heaven" story, I truly believe it was a penny from heaven -- a message from Dad that he was glad to contribute to our yard sale and was with us in spirit. -- JACLYN IN BALLWIN, MO.

DEAR JACLYN: And don't ever let anyone try to convince you otherwise.

DEAR ABBY: When I went to my favorite restaurant recently, I noticed that the menu had changed. I asked our server if I could have an entree from the previous menu. She said she loved the dish too, and would ask the chef if he would make it for me. He agreed, and dinner was lovely.

My fiance and I returned to this restaurant last night, and I told him I wanted to order my favorite dish again. He told me that ordering something not on the menu is rude. I don't see it that way. In fact, I would think that it would be regarded as a compliment to the chef because it meant I had enjoyed the way he prepared it for me before. Besides, the chef agreed to do it for me the last time we were there.

Who is right -- my fiance or me? -- CHEF'S SPECIAL FOR ONE

DEAR SPECIAL: Your fiance may have been afraid that ordering something that was not on the menu would be more expensive, and that's why he objected. Also, if the restaurant was extremely busy that night, I could understand why asking for something "special" might be an imposition.

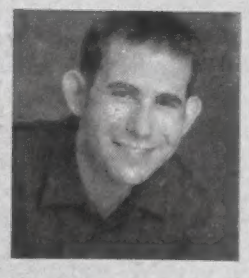
However, since the chef had prepared it for you before, and because restaurants are in the business of selling food, there was nothing "rude" about your request. The next time you call to make reservations, ask in advance if the chef can prepare your special dish for you.

DEAR ABBY: I read your column every day, and I never see the grammar and punctuation errors I typically encounter. Are the letters you publish revised, or are only the most literate and conscientious people moved to write to you? -- ENGLISH TEACHER IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR ENGLISH TEACHER: Everyone who writes to me is "conscientious." However, there are some errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation in the letters that cross my desk.

My staff, my syndicate editors and I try to ensure that any errors are corrected before a letter appears in print. To perpetuate the errors by printing them would set a bad example or distract from the question being presented. ■

Help Me, Harlan!



Dear Harlan,

My boyfriend and I have been together for going on six years, and we have a 2-year-old together. Lately, he has been shutting me out completely, and I get the feeling he does not want to be with me anymore. When the subject comes up for both of us to move on elsewhere, he acts as if he doesn't care, but when it comes down to it, he doesn't want me to go. I want to know that he does still care and that he does love me. How do I get that out of him if he is not willing to tell me?

Not Hearing Me

Dear Not Hearing Me,

I don't know what he's not telling you or why he's not telling you, but here's what I can tell you: When you have a baby, your relationship as a couple will change. Being a couple takes more effort. Going out, being spontaneous and spending time together as JUST a couple takes planning and deliberate effort. Between you being a mom, him being a dad and you both being caregivers, the "couple" part can starve if not well-nourished. Two years later, you can be disconnected. I'd run to couples counseling. The cost of a few sessions is nothing in comparison with the cost of ending this relationship. No matter what happens, you'll always have a relationship with this man. Try and get him in a safe place where a professional can help you two have a better chance of talking and understanding each other. There's always the possibility that he might not be able to tell you what he's feeling because he's not even sure. Give him the chance to work through it -- get some help as soon as possible.

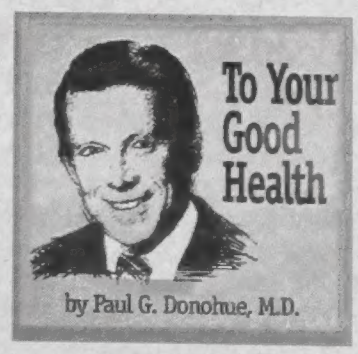
Dear Harlan,

I've gotten myself into the same situation, datingwise, three different times with three different guys. Here's what happens: I like a guy and he likes me, but apparently he likes or loves someone else. I don't know this at first, and he assures me that we will have a long relationship ... that is, until he breaks up with me. He tells me it's "not fair" to me if his "heart isn't really in it" or something like that. This usually leads to me trying to be friends with him for a while, resenting him and whoever he is with and then finally ignoring and avoiding him and her altogether. The first time it happened, I figured it was a fluke. The second time, I felt like an idiot who should have seen it coming. The third time, well, I figured that there is something wrong with me. Any ideas?

Very, VERY Confused

Dear Very, VERY Confused,

The only thing wrong might be that you're a trusting person -- and that's not something you want to change. Instead, change something else. Change not taking someone's word for it. For example, whatever happens after a guy tells you it will be a "long relationship," change it (maybe slow down physically). Give him time to not just say it, but show it. His actions over time will tell you if you can trust him. Also, find out about his past relationships. How things worked in the past can give you an idea of how he'll operate in the future. Give it time, and see if things change. As a rule, slow is always safer. There are trustworthy guys out there. They are just going to need to work a little harder to get your heart. ■



Simple Measures Serve as First Aid for Seizure

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: When my son was in high school, he was diagnosed with epilepsy. His first and second seizures occurred at school. No one there had any training on how to handle a seizure. I am writing to ask you to explain to people what a seizure is and how to help a person having one. There is so much misinformation about this. My son, incidentally, has graduated from college and has not had a seizure in the past five years. -- L.L.

ANSWER: Most people are frightened when witnessing a seizure and are at a complete loss about what they should do. There are many seizure varieties, but I'll confine my remarks to a grand mal seizure, the kind with the most dramatic manifestations.

All seizures are sudden, excessive electrical discharges from brain cells. A grand mal seizure affects most of the brain, and that's why its signs are so striking. Quite often, it occurs without warning. The person stiffens and might make a loud moaning noise. He or she then falls to the ground and makes a series of jerking movements of the arms and legs as muscles contract and relax rapidly. The jerking usually lasts about half a minute to a minute.

Bystanders who have never witnessed a seizure are unnerved by it. Invariably, one will try to pry open the seizing person's mouth so the person doesn't swallow the tongue. That's the wrong thing to do. During a seizure, people never swallow their tongues. Onlookers should not try to restrain the arms or legs. They should place the seizing person on his or her side to keep the airway open, and they can loosen the collar or tie. The seizure will run its course in a short time.

Once the muscle contractions have stopped, the person is unconscious for a while and gradually awakens, confused. The best course is to offer the person transportation to a place where treatment can be given if needed, or to call 911 for help.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I caught my fingers in a closing door. Two fingernails have turned black. I don't want my nails pulled off. How can I get them back to normal? -- S.F.

ANSWER: If the black is pooled blood, a doctor can bore a tiny hole into the nail and let it out. If the blood has congealed, it has to stay there and you have to wait until it's absorbed by the body, which will happen in time. That might take a couple of months.

If the nails themselves have become discolored, then it takes six months for a new nail to grow from the base to the nail tip.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What happens to artery buildup when one stops eating trans fats? -- M.C.

ANSWER: It takes a lot of work to reverse artery buildup, but it can be done if a person carefully watches the amount of saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol eaten. You have to do other things too. You have to keep blood pressure in the normal range. You have to exercise regularly. You can't smoke.■

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Kids Hittin' The Slopes On March Break

The hills at Sir Sam's were filled with young ski and snowboard fans during March Break.

Photos By:
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Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman

Fire From Mud Volcano

The massive "mud volcano" disaster in Indonesia's East Java province has taken on a new and potentially deadly aspect — bursts of gas that threaten to ignite into flames near those still living in the area. About 15,000 people have been evacuated since a massive flood of hot mud began spewing from a well site in May 2006. Some experts say it was triggered by careless gas-drilling operations, while the drilling company argues it was caused by an earthquake 155 miles away. People living near the wide swath of industrial, residential and agricultural land covered by the mud in Sidoarjo district say flammable gas jets are now bursting out of the mud. "In this village, you could be burnt anytime unless we are relocated," Rahmat Sudirman, a resident in Mindi village, told Reuters. Villagers are marking new gas leaks with a piece of pipe in an effort to prevent people from setting the flares alight. Police have cordoned off some of the larger leaks.

Yellow Sand Hazard

A massive cloud of yellow sand blew from China into parts of South Korea and Japan, forcing schools to close and creating a health hazard, according to officials. Between March and May every year, large quantities of yellow sand are sent airborne from the Gobi and Taklamakan deserts, with much of it being transported by westerly winds to Japan and the Korean Peninsula. Some of the sand becomes saturated with toxic pollution spewed into the air across China's industrialized regions. Residents downwind are advised to stay indoors or wear face masks while venturing outdoors when clouds of the yellow sand are thick.

Wild Blizzard Victims

The most severe winter conditions in 50 years across parts of China have blocked the feeding paths of many wild animals, according to officials. "We estimate that some 100,000 wild animals have been trapped in the mountains to the southwest of Xinjiang," said Dai Zhigang, head of the endangered animal protection station of the Forestry Bureau of Kashi Prefecture, in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Dai told the Xinhua news agency that new sightings of dead animals, mainly grazing species and wild birds, have been reported by wardens every day since Feb. 7, when the blizzard waned. He said that there were once about 4,000 argali wild sheep roaming the area. The rare species may face extinction due to lack of food in early spring, when mountain vegetation will be hard to find after the snowstorm.

Tropical Cyclone

Tropical Cyclone Ophelia briefly attained hurricane force as it passed well off the coast of northwestern Australia. Concerns over the storm prompted one petroleum company to suspend its offshore operations until the storm passed.

• Cyclone Jokwe formed just off the northern tip of Madagascar, then took aim on the already flood-ravaged African nation of Mozambique late in the week.

Earthquakes

A 5.6 magnitude quake knocked out power around the northern Chilean city of Iquique, but caused no significant damage.

• Earth movements were also felt in northern Italy, Lebanon, the central Philippines and western Sumatra.

Hawaiian Lava Damage

Three long-abandoned houses in a nearly deserted neighborhood on Hawaii's Big Island were destroyed by lava from Kilauea volcano. A fresh lava flow entered the Royal Gardens subdivision, where 66 homes and other structures have been destroyed since the volcano began a slow eruption in 1983. About five houses are still standing there, but only one full-time and one part-time resident remained as of early January. Officials announced they will open up a long-closed stretch of highway, allowing residents and tourists to get very near the lava flow for the first time in years.

Jellyfish Explosion

Spanish authorities warned those heading to the country's Mediterranean coast that massive swarms of jellyfish are likely to cause a hazard to bathers this summer, even in the shallow waters near shore. The Barcelona-based Institute of Marine Sciences says overfishing has eliminated many of the natural predators and competitors that used to keep the gooey invertebrate population under control. Institute research professor Josep-Maria Gili said the recent growth in jellyfish numbers "is a message from the sea that something is wrong." Other marine experts say that global warming has also brought about the ideal conditions for jellyfish to breed in the western Mediterranean: mild temperatures, little rain and a lack of the usual winter rainstorms. Similar growth in jellyfish populations has recently occurred in Japan, Namibia, Alaska, Venezuela and western Australia, Gili said.

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